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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 292. SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1912. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page III. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

OUR
FOOTBALL
COMPETITIONS
HAVE CAUGHT ON

SEE PAGE 30

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IN PRIZES

No
Entrance Fee.

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JOHN BULL.

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Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XII. No. 292. Week ending Saturday, January 6th, 1912. One Penny.

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All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT THE
GOLDEN LION HOTEL, LOWER BRIGGATE,
TO-MORROW (FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th), at 8 p.m.
Chairman: Reginald Knight, Esq.
ADMISSION FREE

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

THE NEW LEAF.

Now that we have turned it over, let us get to work in grim earnest to fill it with a useful record. By the time these words are read the leaf will be nearly a week old, and already some of us will have smudged it a bit. Personally, we shall make a big effort to live up to the motto we have inscribed in our own New Year's book, page one—In private life, Peace; in public life, Independence and Common Sense; and in all things, Charity. There may be grander sounding creeds, but that is good enough for us.

THE LOCK-OUT.

The lock-out in the cotton trade is the beginning of the industrial war of 1912 which we have been predicting for weeks past. There is no doubt about it, we are in for a bad year. And we are not constitutionally of a pessimistic disposition. By the way, did you ever hear the definition of a pessimist?—one who has lived with an optimist!

THE BERESFORD-MCKENNA EPISODE.

The episode of the oratorical Charley and the epistolary McKenna has now become so piquant that it would be interesting to have the exact facts, apart from the question of amenities. Briefly, Lord Charles Beresford has alleged in a public speech that Mr. McKenna, late First Lord of the Admiralty, was sacked by the Prime Minister on account of his "gross antics" during the Franco-Anglo-German crisis of a few months ago. Mr. McKenna has retorted, by letter, that nobody attaches the smallest importance to what Lord Charles Beresford says, and asserted by innuendo that Lord Charley was influenced by personal animus because he refused to give him a job and declined to recommend him as Admiral of the Fleet. *Why* did Mr. McKenna refuse to give Lord Charley a job, and *why* was Mr. McKenna shunted from the Admiralty to the Home Office? R.S.V.P.

WHITE SAILORS WANTED!

A correspondent, possessing large experience in the handling of black, coloured and coolie labour, affirms that in time of real danger white men are deserted. He gives as an instance the case of the *Delhi*, stating that immediately the vessel struck, the Lascar stokers, greasers, fitters, deck-hands, etc., deserted their jobs and absolutely refused to do any more work, it being only by luck that no open mutiny took place. The captain had a most trying time, having to arm the white crew with revolvers and give them strict instructions not to argue with the recalcitrants. As soon as the breeches buoy life-saving apparatus was in working order, the "coloured gentlemen" were rushed off, and then those in charge of the ship could think of saving the Royal passengers and mails. The cooks and bakers had to attend to the working of the boilers, and the stewards and officers helped with the rest of the work. There is certainly a crying need for a larger proportion of white men in the crews of British ships.

OH——!

The Rev. Joe Cockin (sounds a bit sporty, doesn't it?), in speaking at a Baptist bazaar at Truro the other day, said, "Since Jesus Christ he had never known a statesman such as Mr. Lloyd George," who, by his wonderful work for the masses, "had immortalised himself *for ever*." Note the emphasis. Was it intended to distinguish Mr. George's particular brand of immortality? What fanaticism Party does engender!

ARMY AERIAL SECRETS.

Can anyone inform us wherein lies the wisdom of showing two foreign officers the "Beta," while at the same moment several natives of Aldershot who happened to be in the vicinity were driven away almost at the point of the bayonet?

LOUD SILENCE.

"The House of Commons is never so moved as when it listens in silence to a speaker," says T.P. in *Reynolds's*. We merely note the statement *en passant*.

Civil Service Reform.

It is a pity Mr. Asquith does not widen the scope of the Civil Service enquiry so that methods of business may be brought within its purview. The old patronage system has been creeping into Service appointments for years, and latterly it has been used mainly to provide Party jobs. Meantime, men who have won their positions by competitive examination are held back or shoved aside.

Waste and Red Tape.

Since 1908 over 4,000 new posts of a temporary or permanent character have been created, at enormous public cost. Withal there is in the various Departments a vast deal of waste and incompetency. In most of them it takes half-a-dozen men to do work which in a business of equal dimensions could be performed by two or three ordinary clerks. The amount of official energy used up in processes of red tape is well nigh incredible. Naturally, the more people are drafted into the Civil Service in present conditions the more the processes are extended and elaborated, for only by such means can a pretence be found for the employment of an ever-increasing army of Party nominees. If a Committee of half-a-dozen business men took the Civil Service in hand for a few months they would save the country ten millions a year. That is one of the things which a Business Government means.

The Civil Service Enquiry.

There is a resemblance between the Party System and the "Order of the Garter," inasmuch as "there is no damned merit about it," as Lord Melbourne said of the coveted aristocratic distinction. The Government has carefully seen to it that the demand of 400 members of the House of Commons for an enquiry into the system of appointments and promotion in the Civil Service has not been conceded till four months from its receipt, and after Sir R. Morant, that dismal failure at the Board of Education, has been "jobbed" into the office of Chief Commissioner of Insurance at an increased salary, other incompetents provided for and the way paved for the appointment of hundreds of the "friends of the friends" of those who run the Party machine.

The Jobbery Season.

The chief jobbing is always done when Parliament is not sitting. When it is, we are of course told that the Army, Navy and Civil Service are open alike to the sons of the rich and the poor, and that the soldier or sailor of the lowest rank is entitled to a living wage for the work he does and the risks he runs. We are even reminded that it was the recognition of this principle which made Napoleon's army invincible against all save the inscrutable forces of nature—frost in Russia and mental paralysis at Waterloo, when the brilliant brain had softened, corruption had crept in, and the soldier's knapsack no longer contained the marshal's baton. But once get the inqusitive M.P. out of the way—then jobbery is rampant.

Dungarvan's Churchyard.

With the decision of the Master of the Rolls in Dublin it may be taken for granted that such of the Dungarvan folk as have been using the churchyard as a recreation ground will now have to find their recreations elsewhere. The scandal arose out of the assertion of alleged public rights over a portion of the burial ground, and in order to emphasise their views certain inhabitants lounged about as in a park, played cards on the tombstones, and even tripped it on the light fantastic toe to the music of the accordion. The Court having now let loose all the terrors of an injunction, the next Dungarvanite who is caught at ha'penny nap or tripping a cake walk among the tombs will hear of something to his disadvantage; wherefore he should contrive to make himself happy amid surroundings less sad.

The Bottled Spa Water Imposture.

We wonder why the British Medical Association, which is so anxious to put down the sale of patent medicines it exposes as "pernicious quackeries," crams the pages of its journal with the advertisements of bogus Continental mineral waters which are the grossest of humbugs. Every expert dismisses the published analyses of those foreign concoctions as beneath contempt. The bottled waters from French, German, Hungarian and other foreign springs are entirely different in character and composition from the original waters of the springs, and the published analyses are bogus in so far as they pretend to give the constituents of what the bottles really contain. In fact, the whole thing is arrant quackery and a fraud upon the public. From the moment the water emerges from the bowels of the earth, and comes into contact with the air, chemical changes begin, and by the time it is sold to the consumer weeks, months, or even years may have elapsed. In a week or less the contents of the bottles are no longer the same as the water at the springs, or as the laudatory analyses allege, and in a month or two—*i.e.*, by the time they are consumed—they have entirely changed in nature by chemical interaction. The British Medical Association is pressing the Government to suppress the sale of tried and proved useful popular patent medicines and proprietary articles which, on the strength of alleged analyses, it denounces, and lectures the newspapers upon their venality and infamy because they insert the advertisements of these medicines and articles, whilst at the same time the journal of its own trade union is crammed with advertisements of misleading and expensive quackeries.

A Socialist's Thanks.

The *Standard's* "Red Peril" screech is, according to a socialist reader, the cheapest and best advertisement Socialism has received for many years. As he cynically observes, "It is doing what we have never yet been able to accomplish—spreading socialistic ideas amongst the middle and upper classes. Imagine what it means to our propaganda! Our 'Red Catechism,' which the bourgeois never heard of and never bought, is being served up in full to the classes we have never been able to reach or interest. Even the bishops read and lords and ladies write combatting our views and, without knowing it, are permeating the middle and upper classes with Socialism. I am really grateful to the *Standard* for giving Socialism an advertisement we have never been able to afford. The well to do, who are the only ones who can afford to do so, will buy our books, and we will make converts everywhere amongst the 'brainy' upper classes. It is a great stride in advance for us to get our Socialistic Catechism into the Capitalistic Press free gratis for nothing." We imagine that when the *Standard* "tumbles to the game" the "Red Peril Socialistic propaganda" will be dropped like a hot potato, but in the meantime there is a boom in socialistic literature, and the unexpected royalties come as ripe and refreshing fruit to the parched lips of previously unread socialistic writers.

Pennywise Glasgow Post Office.

Here is a circular received by a Glasgow firm, dated a few days before Christmas. "Sirs," it reads, "with reference to the account from this Department, of the 6th inst., requesting payment of 1d. in connection with your Exchange Line, I am directed to remind you that a remittance has not yet been received. . . . The Postmaster-General reserves the right to withdraw the facilities if the amount be not paid, and, therefore, unless the amount due be remitted within three days it is regretted that there will be no alternative but to withdraw these facilities until the amount be received." Did the subscribers save their telephonic arrangements from disruption by sending the money per stamp, postal order, or cheque?

"ARE YOU THERE?"

Now that the Post Office has taken over the National Company's telepone system it is hoped that the public will be treated somewhat more considerately. There has been a widespread belief that no small portion of the National Company's revenue has been earned by its excessive eagerness in registering calls against its customers, or at any rate excessive inability to distinguish between calls made and communications established. Even when an office record of established calls was kept it seldom tallied with the National's bill, and as the Company was practically its own court of appeal it usually gave a decision in favour of its own record and enforced satisfaction of the judgment by holding a revolver at the head of the subscriber and demanding his money or his telephone. The Postmaster-General in taking over the staff will no doubt be let into some of the secrets of the old order. The public is entitled to be treated with scrupulous fairness in all telephone accounts, and we trust experience will prove to business men that Mr. Samuel has impressed this fact upon his subordinates.

"LET GLASGOW FLOURISH."

Let it flourish by all means, so long as it does not flourish by pinching its workers. Candidly, however, we don't like its starving method of treating the clerks in the Parish Council's Collectors' Department. Here, it seems, men are taken on for nine months in the year, and are required to be highly efficient in their work, as well as to maintain a good appearance, their wages being 24s. a week, with time off for sickness deducted. They get no holidays except the ordinary official ones, and in many cases it happens that they cannot find occupation for so short a period as three months, during which time they are permitted to accept other duties. The salaries of the permanent staff are certainly better—running up to four figures in fact. If the Council want to save the bawbees, why do it by starving those at the bottom and fattening those at the top?

A SUGGESTION.

Apropos of the 30,000 Boer war medals still in stock, it is suggested they should be sent to the British Museum to be used as checks for the umbrellas given up on entrance. Perhaps the authorities will give this their earnest consideration.

L.C.C. PAY METHODS.

During elections there is considerable talk about this, that, or the other being a business party, but after elections the talk does not always materialise. Take the substantial grievance of the evening school teachers against the pay officials of the L.C.C. Without a doubt these officers rally round the cash-box with the greatest promptness when their own salaries are due, but when it comes to paying the evening school teachers it would require something equivalent to an earthquake to hasten their tardy feet. According to the payment rules, the salaries of evening school teachers for the period from September to November 18 are payable between November 20th and December 20th, yet in several cases they had not arrived on December 22nd. The next period for which payment will be due is from November 29th to January 27th, the covering salary being paid during the month of February. The third period of salary payment is not less indefinite. What is the reason for this method of paying public servants? These evening school teachers are not, as a rule, wealthy enough to allow for the eccentricities of the pay department. It takes most of them all their time to live to-day, let alone taking thought where they shall get credit to-morrow.

IRISH CRIME AND THE PRIEST.

Let anybody who believes that the Irish priesthood not only tolerates but throws a cloak over Irish crime read the denunciation of Dr. Fogarty, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Killaloe, from the pulpit of Ennis Cathedral. "In any other country," he said, "such bold ruffians would be hunted down and lynched as a public peril; but here they have a certain security thrown round them by cowardice or perverted moral sense on the part of the community among whom they live and operate. The result is that people in the districts I refer to have become completely demoralised, and seem to have lost all grasp of the most elementary principles of Christian morals, all sense of the sacredness of human life, or regard for right and wrong in the sight of God." Even the wildest Orangemen cannot detect any compromise with moonlighters, intimidators and cattle-maimers in this outspoken episcopal onslaught, which we trust will have real and immediate effect throughout the whole of County Clare.

SCOTLAND SOBERING.

It does our heart good to note that the Land o' Burns is sobering up, though regret is mingled with our joy when we learn that it is not sobering up because it wants to, but because its whisky is costing it more. At one end of the statistics Anstruther, in Fife, is so awfu' sober that nobody there now gets tipsy and, at the other, Lanarkshire is so awfu' drunk that 140 out of every 10,000 of its population are either summoned or run in. If whisky were cheaper it is not for us to say whaur Anstruther wad be; but certainly Lanarkshire would have to increase the number of its police ambulances. Perhaps Mr. Gulland will issue a new edition of his book, "Scotland Sober and Free."

ROWLEY REGIS FIRE ENGINE.

The other week we noted the scorn of a tradesman of Rowley Regis who had received a bill for fire brigade services which, according to his account, were simply unavailable. The Captain and Lieutenant of the Brigade have now explained their part in the affair and resigned, "other resignations being likely to follow." Whether or not the Rowley Regis fire engine was or was not available when needed for the tradesman's blazes is a question not easily determined on the evidence; but even if it be too slow for putting out fires, it is apparently quick enough to kill pigs. At any rate, it is revealed that it killed a pig on its last excursion to a local conflagration, and the revelation has so shamed the brigade in the eyes of Rowley Regis that they are now considering their position. We beg them to remain at their posts. The day may come when that fire engine will obtain fresh laurels by running over a duck. And in time of war it may prove invaluable in the collection of food for the Army.

NEITHER FISH, FLESH NOR FOWL.

When is jelly not jelly? The enquirers in search of information on this knotty point might do worse than make application to the Court of Common Council of the City of London, or, failing satisfaction there, to the Port of London Authority itself. Both are, or should be, well primed upon the subject, since the arrival recently in the Thames of a cargo from Boston, Mass., of a hundred tons or so of "imitation currant jelly," consisting, according to the bills of lading, of apple juice, maple syrup and phosphoric acid. At first it did seem as though here was a chance for history to right itself. It is now well over a hundred years ago since the Bostonians toppled a whole cargo of British tea overboard into their harbour. Why not do the same with Boston's jelly? But, unluckily for reprisal's sake, the present mixture was duly labelled "spurious," or to that effect, and so no cause could lie against the wooden nutmeg folk.

THE "RED CAPS."

Perhaps the most objectionable person in the whole of the British Army is the military foot policeman—better known as "Red Cap." We can thoroughly appreciate the use of these men on service, but why they are retained in times of peace—and especially in a city like London—we are at a loss to understand. Several cases of gross injustice have been brought to our notice during the past few weeks, men having been ordered to return to their regiments for the most frivolous infringements of military etiquette. We hear of one man who was "spotted" by a "Red Cap," and charged with the horrible offence of wearing his waist-belt underneath his great-coat, instead of outside! A report was forwarded to the man's regiment, and he was ordered to return. No wonder the service is unpopular! Come, Lord Haldane! Take your spying military police away from London. A man who wears the King's uniform does not require his footsteps to be dogged.

FRIENDS OR FOES?

A man recently charged before the Lord Mayor with being drunk excused himself on the ground that he had been out of work for a long time, and that meeting a few sympathetic friends, and not having had anything to eat, the liquor took effect upon him. "I suppose none of them thought of asking you to have a chop?" said the Lord Mayor. Quite so. "Evil is wrought by want of thought as well as want of heart," and if you want to do a friend who is down on his luck a good turn you should invite him to have something to eat instead of something to drink—or, at any rate, first.

REWARD OF MERIT.

There have been "great doings" at Newport, in Wales, according to the local paper. On a recent Saturday morning Mr. Fred Bartlett, who for twenty-five years has been in the service of Messrs. Jones, Heard and Sons, shipbrokers, Dock Street, Newport, was presented with the sum of £10 in recognition of his long connection with that firm. "Mr. Bartlett," says our enthusiastic contemporary, "has been engaged by the firm from his early boyhood, and for some years has made himself practically indispensable to his employers." Mr. Bartlett and others will thus perceive that, despite the cynics, virtue is sometimes rewarded in this world, and that gentlemen who put in twenty-five years' service with Messrs. Jones, Heard and Sons at any rate need not wait until they arrive in the next. By the time Mr. Bartlett has put in thirty years' service he may be retired on a pension of 5s. per week. While there's life there's hope.

THE NEW CRUELTY ACT.

An Act of Parliament long wanted came into force on New Year's Day—the Protection of Animals Act to wit. It is now an offence cruelly to beat, kick, ill-treat, over-ride, over-drive, over-load, torture, infuriate, or terrify, or being the owner to cause or permit any of these things to be done in regard to any domestic or captive animal of any kind whatever. The maximum penalty is increased from £5 to £25, and any alternative or additional imprisonment may be six months' hard labour. The Act is due to the energy and initiative of Mr. George Greenwood, M.P., to whom the warm thanks of all lovers of animals are due.

TOO BAD!

A correspondent caps the enquiry in our "Bull's Eyes" column, "Is it true that Calcutta is Delhi-ted?" with the retort, "No—deleted!"

A PLOT?

Someone has sent us two bottles of a wonderful tonic, with the request that we will try them. As, however, they are labelled "poison," we will stick to "Brainine."

LIGHT ON HAMPSTEAD.

Hampstead ratepayers were amazed to discover on waking up the other morning that Mr. G. H. Cottam, chief electrical engineer, and Mr. E. Sayer, chief assistant electrical engineer, had between them underestimated the cost of converting the borough gas lamps into electric lights by over £10,000. These talented officials have made various explanations, but the real one seems to be that they have holes in their heads, where the wind blows through. At any rate, Mr. Cottam has been requested to resign and Mr. Sayer has been packed off instanter. What makes the scandal worse is that in regard to the charges for street lighting the accounts have been tampered with in order to decrease the apparent expenditure. It seems amazing that nobody on the "business sub-committee" discovered that the experimental conversion on which the larger scheme was founded was £348 over the estimate. Surely these accounts were considered before the Council decided on the scheme estimated at £15,072, yet it seems to be the fact that this "business sub-committee" had not the remotest idea that anything was wrong. Which leads us to the conclusion that, as the Hampstead Borough Council will now require new chief and assistant electrical engineers, they had better get a new business sub-committee at the same time.

THE GOLDEN AGE.

The honorary secretary of a society described as "The Order of the Golden Age" complains that at Christmas time "countless thousands of animals and birds are massacred to provide what is now widely and rightly regarded as unnatural and unnecessary food." We are exceedingly sorry for the animals and the birds; but if the Golden Age means that we must do without turkeys, ducks, geese, and prime roast beef at Christmas and diet ourselves wholly on nuts, our fervent hope is that it will be postponed for at least a few years.

"WE RAISE OUR HAT."

Having raised our hat to the Rev. Frank Swainson, vicar of St. Barnabas, Holloway, it is not our intention to stultify the courtesy. It is pointed out to us, however, that there are excellent reasons other than those constituting our rev. brother's self-sacrifice why, having received the call to the rectory of Middleton, he should not pack up and order a pantechnicon. It is true Mr. Swainson's present living is worth only £285, and it is true likewise that that at Middleton is put at £1,619; but we are told that about one-half of the £1,619 goes before it reaches the rector. In addition, there are various heavy parochial expenses, and a large rectory and garden to maintain. Also, the assorted smells of Middleton do not suit everybody—in fact, they have "nearly" killed the present vicar, who is leaving them by doctor's orders, preferring a living of £450 or less to one of about £850 net. Taking one thing with another, we think we had better raise our hat to Mr. Swainson again.

J. H. BALFOUR-BROWNE, K.C., ON PARTY.

"If there is one institution which seems to us to deserve to be on its trial at the present time, it is government by party. . . . The principle which we have stated as being the ethical foundation of parties—namely, that men may honestly sacrifice minor matters of principle for the sake of party—seems to us to be immoral."

"While there is great work to be done—and the good government of a country like ours is great work—there will not be wanting the men to do it. But the party strife, with its chicanery and cunning, which forms such a large part of party warfare, is a means of keeping some of the best men of the country apart from the work of governing altogether."—(*From "Political Essays."*)

POSTAL PRANKS.

Mr. Herbert Samuel doubtless is, in his way, a funny dog, but he is ill-advised to play off his jokes on the poor people of South Norwood. The residents have long been agitating for increased postal facilities. No business can be transacted at the local post-office after eight o'clock, and on Sundays stamps are obtainable only at the Croydon General Post Office or at Upper Norwood. The local traders' association has sent a deputation to the Assistant P.M.G., while Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P. for Croydon, has been urging the matter in the House, and the Croydon County Council has also been stirring. But the Postmaster-General has decided that he is not justified in extending the hours of business on week-days, nor opening the office on Sundays, on the ground that "the provisions for purchasing stamps of licensed vendors are sufficient," but, by way of a concession, "instructions have been given for the aperture (to the post-office letter-box) to be enlarged by two inches"!

MR. RUNCIMAN AND CATTLE DISEASE.

The last great plague of foot and mouth disease caused stock-owners a loss of a million sterling, and the discovery of a fresh outbreak in Somerset—where the last one started—may well fill breeders with dread. What does Mr. Runciman do to grapple with the devastating disease? One would suppose that any committee appointed to take measures to stamp it out would be composed of experienced stockbreeders, veterinary experts and men who have some practical knowledge of animal diseases and sanitary science. His fatuous committee of twelve consists of politicians and others as devoid of expert knowledge as himself. Could we possibly have a more glaring instance of the need for a Business Government?

CLOUGH ON THE AMENITIES.

Mr. Clough, M.P., the pugilistic puritan, has been telling an audience that he will "never apologise again." We hope that means that he has decided to give up assaulting his political opponents.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT."

COUNTRY CURATE (discovering a soldier and his lass amongst the corn): "Whatever are you doing here?"

DISTURBED TOMMY (gruffly): "Spooning."

DISCONCERTED CURATE (nervously): "Oh, well—er—you have a lovely day for it."

LET 'EM ALL COME!

THE HUGE SUM OF £67,000,000 HAS TO BE COLLECTED BY THE REVENUE OFFICIALS DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. THE POOR TAXPAYER MAY, THEREFORE, ANTICIPATE LIVELY TIMES.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

(1). *For the following injunction: "Don't try to get rich quick. Smarter men than you who have come to town* WITHOUT A FARTHING *have tried it and* LOST ALL THEY HAD,"

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(2). *For publishing a drawing with the instruction to* "HOLD *it, say,* SIX FEET AWAY,"

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(3). *For advertising, in the "Liverpool Echo," under "Persons Wanted": "Immediately,* 25 SMALL, TALL *Ladies, for touring pantomime,"*

"MANAGERESS" (33, Shaw Street, Liverpool)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(4). *For describing some rooms in a hydro as "built throughout with* WHITE *glazed brick of* VARIOUS COLOURS,"

THE ROTHESAY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(5). *For stating that the official duties of Mr. Rust, the city architect of Brig o' Balgownie, "include the inspection of* BRIDES,"

THE EVENING EXPRESS (Aberdeen)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(6). *For stating that: "Jno. Parker, labourer, of Whittlesea, was charged with allowing a* DAY *to stray at night,"*

THE WHITTLESEA GUARDIAN AND COUNTY PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(7). *For stating, in its report of a recent probate action, that it was "sought to establish the will, dated 28th November, 3916," of a man who died "8th June, 3931," wherein he "left all his property to his wife, with the exception of £*011 *to his daughter,"*

THE CORK FREE PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(8). *For stating that, on receiving the result of the North Ayrshire election, "Mr. Bonar Law telegraphed to Mr. Anderson" (the defeated Liberal candidate) "as follows:—'*I HEARTILY CONGRATULATE *you,'" etc.,*

THE WESTERN EVENING HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(9). *For stating, in its account of the York and Ainsty hunt meet on Boxing Day, at Acomb Green, that "The pavements were crowded, the* TRAMCARS, *though the service had been augmented, were all* FILLED BY A MIXED THRONG OF HORSEMEN, MOTOR CARS, MOTORS, BICYCLES AND CYCLES,"

THE YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(10). *For stating, under the heading "*HEAVY RAIN *in Kathiawar"—"The position in Kathiawar owing to the* FAILURE OF THE RAINS *is becoming acute,"*

THE WEEKLY TIMES OF CEYLON
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(11). *For stating, in its report of a recent football match between Queen's Park Rangers and the Crystal Palace teams, that Revill "equalised with a* FAST SLOW *shot,"*

THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OUR "BISCUIT" COMPETITION.

For particulars of an interesting—and profitable—Competition for children, see announcement on page 26.

HOW TO FIGHT GERMANY.

A SCHEME TO SAVE THE TERRITORIALS, AND ESTABLISH AN ADEQUATE REGULAR ARMY.

[There can be no question that the Territorial force is rapidly going to the dogs, with the result that an attempt is being made to introduce Conscription—in view of the inevitable conflict with Germany. Believing that the country is not ripe for such a measure, we have decided to deal with the whole question of National Defence from a business point of view.]

We assume that our Navy is fit to do its work, and deal only with the Army.

The British Empire has extensive frontiers in Asia, Africa and America to guard. We are more liable to sudden ruin and ignominious peace than any other community that ever existed. In these islands we cannot live on our own food supply. (Whether such a state of things is an absolute necessity we do not now discuss.) We are responsible for the liberty and property of 400,000,000 of the human race, whom we have disarmed. We have taken upon ourselves a great responsibility. Having built a mighty Empire with its vast resources, it is not unnatural that other people, seeking expansion and seeing the way barred because there is no new land left, are embittered.

We cannot shirk a situation of this kind. Every Britisher will agree with us that "What we have we'll hold." That being so, our policy must take the form of either personal service or extra taxation for the purpose of paying those who are willing to do the fighting and endure the privations of war for us. It will, no doubt, be said that we are already heavily taxed for Army and Navy. True. But the men are miserably paid all the same. If we are to remain the mightiest Empire the world has ever known we must be prepared to pay for the privilege—either in cash or personal service.

The South African war caught us napping. It cost us in cash £250,000,000 and some 20,000 precious lives, and it extended over a period of three years. Who can doubt that, had we been able in 1899 to have poured into South Africa 500,000 efficiently trained officers and men, the war would not have lasted more than a month? Our unpreparedness led to a Commission of Enquiry, and subsequently to the disbandment of the old Volunteers and the substitution of the Territorial Force.

ADVOCATES OF CONSCRIPTION.

It will be as well to look into some of the evidence given before that Commission. General Sir John French was asked, "Do you consider that the requirement of a possible military situation can be satisfied short of general service—that is to say, the liability of everyone to serve?" His reply was, "No, I do not think it can."

Then another question was put to the same General: "Do you mean by general service, liability service for a couple of years on the part of everybody?" And French replied, "Yes; Conscription, in fact."

General Sir T. Kelly-Kenny was equally emphatic on the point. Here is what he demanded of the conscript: "I should expect the conscription army to take part in a campaign, not to occupy India or the Colonies, but, if we suddenly went to war with Russia, I would expect them to go out and fight, and take part in the war." Then Lord Raglan chimed in with, "A man who wears the King's livery should be liable to serve wherever he is wanted."

Apart from this Commission, we have Lord Roberts and his National Service League, with its membership of 30,000 and its annual expenditure of £10,000 on propaganda. This League preaches the everlasting sermon of invasion; but, from its President's speeches in the House of Lords and elsewhere, he considers the main danger which threatens us is *the loss of our possessions abroad*. Just so! It is our possessions abroad that are in danger, and the cry of Invasion is only a means to an end: the end being to get the people to accept the system of Conscription.

The Invasion scare is nothing new. It was rampant sixty years ago—only at that time it was France who threatened us instead of Germany.

THE TERRITORIALS.

As a result of the Royal Commission after the Boer war the Territorial Forces Act was passed. Its strength was set down at 315,000. The Press generally gave it their support—at the same time recognising that if the new movement failed, there was nothing left to fall back on but Conscription. Well, the Territorials have now been with us four years. The Force is not, nor has it ever been, up to establishment. This is how it stands:

Total short of establishment on January 1st, 1910	40,754
Ditto, January 1st, 1911	45,620
Total number who put in full period of Fifteen days in camp, 1910	168,175
Ditto, 1911	155,293

We have now the humiliating fact before us that the Territorial Force is a failure.

General French, in his annual Report, states mildly, "The numbers have so far not quite satisfied all expectations." Then he goes on to make the serious charge against the National Service League that it sends paid agents round the country to advise young men not to join the Territorials.

This Lord Roberts, as President of the League, repudiates. We shall be content to allow these two gentlemen to settle the point between themselves, simply taking the glaring facts as to the failure of the Territorial Force.

In our time there have been many Army schemes, and many Army schemers; and they have all failed. Why? Simply because War Ministers have failed to tell the people the truth. They have two armies to find—not one. A sufficient force can be raised easily:

(a) By Conscription.
(b) By Increased Army Estimates.

Every War Minister knows full well that the introduction of Conscription would mean death to the Party he represents. So he steers clear of it. Our Army Estimates are already large, and any increase is met with howls of abuse. So, taking all things into consideration, the War Minister is in a difficult position. To satisfy Party ends he must not mention Conscription; he must also keep down Army Estimates, and he must supply a sufficient and efficient Army to defend an Empire on which the sun never sets. But, with courage, a sufficient and efficient Army *could* be found—and without the unpalatable system of general Conscription.

Next week we propose to enquire why the Territorial Force has failed; how it can be dragged out of the mire, and how it can be made to flourish beyond the dreams of its most ardent admirers. We shall further consider how that force may be supported by a Regular Army, founded on a sound Business basis, not inconsistent with the genius and traditions of the British race.

THE HIRE-PURCHASE SYSTEM.

A WORD WITH MAPLE'S BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH.

[A Bournemouth reader's bitter complaint of what appears to have been harsh treatment by Messrs. Maple under a Hire-purchase agreement.]

A Bournemouth reader tells us that on May 18th, 1910, he entered into an agreement with Messrs. Maple and Co., under which they supplied him with furniture to the value of £846 11s., a sum which included carriage, putting down carpets, and repairing some furniture. The debt was to be paid by monthly instalments of £19 2s. 3d., and up to September 25th last £363 4s. had been paid, but this sum included the original deposit, and payments had been somewhat irregular. Still, at that date payments had been made which, including the deposit, exceeded £23 per month. There was, however, a balance remaining due, and on September 23rd last our correspondent called at the Bournemouth offices of Messrs. Maple and Co., who had been pressing him for payment, to say that he hoped before Christmas to clear up with them, and that he had every reason to expect he would be able to do so, as the house (the furniture was wanted for the purpose of a boarding-house) was doing well. On returning to his house, however, he found that a man had called and left for his wife and himself writs for back payments. On September 25th a telephone message was received, which ran: "Men and van are on their way to clear out the furniture and so on." Our correspondent went to his solicitor to know what he could do. When he returned he found that the furniture was being removed. He at once wrote to Maple's offering to pay £50 before 2 p.m. on the following day. On that day at 1.15 p.m. he received a wire from Maple's, sent from London at 12.44, to say that if the cost of the writs and all back payments and extra expenses, amounting in all to over £100, were paid by 2 p.m. they would replace the furniture. So he had just three-quarters of an hour to get the money, which it was impossible to do in the time.

The result of these proceedings is that our correspondent is ruined, and he thinks he has been very harshly treated by Messrs. Maple and Co., more especially as he had had earlier transactions with them, when his obligations were fully met. It seems to us that our correspondent has ground for his complaint. After receiving such a substantial sum as £363 Messrs. Maple and Co. might surely have given a little more time. It must be remembered that when they seized the furniture upon which this £363 had been paid they had actually issued writs for the arrears.

The hire-purchase system has its good points for poor folk, although its disadvantages are many and obvious, and, where worked fairly, and with reasonable consideration, many people undoubtedly find it to their advantage to pay by instalments rather than wait until the money necessary to buy for cash has been saved. But the methods adopted by Messrs. Maple and Co. in the case to which we are referring, if followed generally, would go very far to kill the system, or, at any rate, to confine it to those who do not care what risks they take if only they can get present possession of the furniture they want.

THE MORALS OF NOTTINGHAM.

A NEW POTTERY POET?

A Hanley reader tells us that on recently visiting Nottingham he was impressed with the truth of our articles as to the condition of that town, and was thereupon moved to pen the following verses:—

THE DEVIL IN THE POTTERIES.

For years old Satan lived in Stoke,
And, undisturbed, enjoyed his joke.
But last of all a parson came
Who soon upset his little game.

But now, I'm told, he's left the Potts,
And settled down in poor old Notts.
So, if you want to find the "Lamb,"
You'd better go to Nottingham.

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY AND A POOR MAN.

On May 30th last Mr. Joseph Moss was driving his van just outside Peterborough, when a pair of horses, with a heavy drag, belonging to Lord Huntly, dashed into him, upset and smashed his van, knocked him into the road, and did considerable damage to Mr. Moss himself, who not only lost five teeth, but was laid up and not able to do a stroke of work for nine weeks. Soon after the accident Lord Huntly saw Mr. Moss, and promised to compensate him for injury done. At the inquest on the groom, who met his death on the occasion, Lord Huntly admitted his liability and again promised to compensate Mr. Moss for the loss and damage he had sustained.

Time went on, and hearing nothing more from Lord Huntly, Mr. Moss instructed Mr. Stourton, solicitor, of Peterborough, to make a demand upon him for compensation. To this request he received no reply. Mr. Moss then put the matter into the hands of a London solicitor, Mr. J. Davies, when, for the first time, the Marquess's solicitors were instructed to deny liability. Then Mrs. Moss wrote to Lady Huntly, pointing out the loss her husband had sustained through the accident, for which he was in no way responsible, and asking her ladyship to compensate them. No reply was returned, and Mr. Moss remains without compensation of any sort or kind.

Lord Huntly is a bankrupt, and so Mr. Moss is stopped from recovering by process of law, but we submit that he has behaved in a very mean way in this matter. He may say he is dependent on his wife for maintenance. But that lady makes him an allowance from which he might very easily have taken a few pounds to satisfy the just demand of a man in humble life. The Gordons are mostly gentlemen, but the present head of their clan does not seem to come within that definition.

THE CHURCH ARMY AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

MEAN TREATMENT OF ILL-PAID MEN.

We have had a good deal to say in the past about the Church Army and the way in which it interprets its duty to the unfortunate who apply to it for assistance. Our attention has now been directed to the way in which it treats its staff. Take for example its clerks. We are assured that they are greatly underpaid by the "Army" authorities. We are acquainted with the case of one who, after four years' service, had a rise of 1s. a week, and of another young fellow, 17 years of age, who has been in the Church Army's employment for three years and is now earning a salary of 7s. a week. As an illustration of the way in which the humbler members of the staff are treated, we may instance one of them who had been invited to stay with his parents in Devonshire during the recent holidays. The "Army" offices were closed from Saturday afternoon until the following Wednesday morning. There was an excursion by the Great Western Railway on Friday evening at 7.3 p.m., and the clerk in question was naturally anxious to avail himself of it. He therefore asked permission to be absent Saturday morning, giving as his reason his desire to travel by the excursion train. He was told the matter would have to go before the Committee on Thursday afternoon, so he could make no definite arrangements. On Friday he got the decision of the Committee, which was that he could have the Saturday off provided he sacrificed his wages for the half day. It was only 1s. 6d., but then it was out of a salary that is but £1 a week, and the clerk was a married man. We cannot believe that those who support the Church Army, from the Queen downwards, would approve of this mean treatment.

REPLIES TO LEGAL QUESTIONS.

We regret that the ever-growing pressure upon our space has rendered it impossible for us to find room for replies to a large number of questions which have been addressed to us upon legal subjects. Such replies, however, are all in type, and will be duly worked off in the earlier numbers of *The Lay Lawyer*, in connection with which arrangements are now far advanced.

FLORAL SALTS.

By Byron Campbell.

[A clever skit upon the methods of a famous statesman.]

Sammy Budd was a resourceful young man of many parts, who had his way to make in the world, and intended making it.

He had a distinctly pleasing personality, a kind, cheery disposition, and held the beautiful belief that he could do most things better than anyone else.

He used to boast that he could obtain a living where another man would starve, and for the most part he was believed, for he usually spoke the truth—that is, so far as truth did not interfere with business.

Sammy had missed his vocation. He should have been a company promoter. He had such a plausible way.

Something for Nothing.

Latterly he had been engaged in the joyous enterprise of presenting the populace with talking machines, on a something for nothing basis, wherein you got the machine for nothing, but bought the records, without which the machine was useless.

This philanthropic proposition had not met with an overwhelming amount of success, and Sammy had relinquished the job, after explaining to the management that "tooting" talking machines around London endeavouring to present them to persons who didn't want them was not exactly his strong point.

I had not seen Sammy for several weeks until one morning I spotted him manœuvring through the traffic down Shepherd's Bush way. His blue eyes were twinkling when he saw me, which they always do when he is well pleased with himself.

Sammy has a nice open face, which is quite one of his best assets. Once, in a confidential moment, he informed me that he had schooled himself to obtain that pleasing expression.

"Good-morning, Sam," I said pleasantly, as I shook him by the hand, "how d'ye do?"

"Pretty well, thanks," he replied, smiling amiably; "haven't seen you for an age."

"No," I returned, beginning to sniff, "it's some little time since we met. What's the game now?"

"Working for my living, as usual," he answered evasively, with a laugh.

I sniffed again. Surely there was something peculiar in the air. A most potent perfume seemed to be invading the atmosphere. Scientists speak of ether being an imponderable, all-pervading something, but ether could have a handsome start and a jolly good beating from the scent that was wafted to my nostrils.

I glanced at Sam, and finally my eyes rested on the bag he carried.

"Sammy," I demanded, fixing him with my eye, "what on earth have you got in that infernal bag?"

"That," said he, smiling sweetly, "that's the living."

"The living!" I ejaculated, staring stonily at him. "Why, it smells like a chemist's shop."

"Yes," he assented, "that's where it comes from. My present mission in life is to introduce the merits of 'Dalmaine's Floral Salts' to the British public. I'm just about to commence. Would you like to see the show?"

So, with the idea of acquiring copy, I went.

Sammy escorted me through several side streets. Then, in one which consisted of an unbroken line of modern villas, he proposed to commence the performance.

He left me by the gate of the end house, entered the narrow garden and knocked at the door, whilst I watched breathlessly.

A woman answered the door—such a woman as one expected to answer the door of such a house.

"Good-morning, madam," said Sam, as he pressed the catch of his bag. The bag opened and the vile smell increased threefold. He thrust a coloured packet into her hand.

"What is it?" inquired the woman, looking pleased. "Samples?"

"No," murmured the irrepressible Sam, unblushingly. "That is a packet of 'Dalmaine's Celebrated Floral Salts.' We are sending it round to every house in the neighbourhood to give you an opportunity of using this wonderful preparation—to put amongst your clothes—in boxes, drawers, or wardrobes—for one penny the trial packet."

"Oh! I thought it was free," said the lady of the house, shaping as though she would return the packet.

He craftily feigned not to see the movement and went on in an even monotone.

Something More For a Little Less.

"No, lady, that's a 3d. packet of 'Floral Salts,' and we're distributing it around the neighbourhood for 1d. the trial packet. Full directions on the back how to use it—makes the clothes smell nice and keeps the moth away."

"Well, you ought to give 'em away."

Sammy agreed that it would be nice, pointed out the benefits he was conferring on the community, and hinted that the people might not fully appreciate these if the article was given away free.

"Price threepence," said the woman, reading the inscription on the envelope, and fumbling in her pocket.

"Why, it's like this new Insurance Act they've just passed in the House of Commons. They're giving 9d. for 4d., aren't they?"

"In politics or the realms of high finance," returned Sam, pocketing the coin, "I am as a child knowing nothing. Sufficient for me to introduce 'Floral Salts' to your notice. Possibly the Chancellor of the Exchequer has heard of me and taken a leaf from my book, but I don't remember calling. Good-day, madam."

He passed on. He called at the next house, but with no result.

At another the door was slammed in his face, but his confidence was unshaken.

Down the road he went, extolling the virtues of 'Dalmaine's Celebrated Floral Salts.' Sometimes he met with no success. Mostly he talked them into it.

When a woman answering the door refused with a dubious shake of the head, he found a customer next door, and before Sammy had reached the gate her next-door neighbour had relented.

"You see," he explained to me, "they're just like a lot of sheep following each other. They don't want it, but if one buys they all follow her example."

"They don't need it, but it excites their curiosity. It appeals to their senses. The attractive colours appeal to their sight, whilst their sense of smell is tickled by the fragrant perfume."

"Perfume you call it," said I, "why it's a bally stink."

Sammy grinned sardonically.

"Anyway, they like it," he said. "But you have to humour the women. Get them on your side. Stroke them the right way and everything's easy. Get them on the raw and you're in for a bad time."

"Once, down Dalston way, along a street I was working came a woman holding a torn packet in her hand. 'You're a robber,' she said, beginning to shriek, 'that's what you are. Call this "Floral Salts"? It's nothing but scented sawdust. You ought to be run in, you did. It's a fraud.'

"Had I lost my nerve half the street would have descended upon me, accompanied by their husbands. But I kept cool and used a little tact. Made a concession, in fact. Apologised for my mistake, appropriated the torn packet, and gave her her money back."

Simplicity of Methods.

Sammy leant over and whispered a name in my ear.

"The simplicity of his methods I have always admired," he said, "but he has become indiscreet. He's lost his head and his nerves are gone.

"We both discovered the Something for Nothing game was played out. He with his Budget and Land Taxes, I with my talking machines. Then we turned our attention to the 'Little More for a Little Less' proposition. It's a good war cry, whether it's 9d. for 4d. or 3d. for 1d.

"But you have to humour the women or else they bring their big brothers out, and that is fatal. He's got the women against him, and that's the beginning of the end.

"He has 'innate intelligence'; he has said so. Then why, oh! why doesn't he use it and give them their money back?"

"Sammy," I said, "you ought to have been a politician."

"Yes," he replied sadly, reflectively wagging his head, "But what a canvasser *he* would have made."

I left him then, and as I went I heard him chanting the praises of his confounded wares.

BOGUS PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETIES.—NO. 1.

THE HARRIS TWEED ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

By M. H.

It is very sad to think of the thousands of poor crofters expelled from the lands of their forefathers to make deer forests for American and other millionaires, but in Scotland —"that land of meanness, sophistry and mist," as Byron, half a Scot, described it—it is a holy and wholesome thought that there are pure souled, noble philanthropists who feel for the miseries of the sad remnants of the bold peasantry, whose hard lot inspired the genius of Burns. The noble philanthropists suddenly burned with indignation over the crofters' woes and, to alleviate them, followed the example of the sanctimonious Baptist, J. D. Rockefeller, of Standard Oil fame.

A CORNER IN HARRIS TWEEDS.

The silver-tongued orator, Lord Rosebery, headed the movement, which was organised by a Mrs. McKenzie and Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, whose hearts bled for the crofters' miseries. Mr. Balfour, the Duke of Fife and other great Scotsmen became patrons and set the fashion for Harris tweeds as the only wear for golfers, fishers and all sportsmen everywhere, all for the generous purpose of popularising an industry that would better the lot of the famishing crofters. The Press of the United Kingdom aided their efforts, and sympathetic articles appeared lauding the practical patriotism and generosity of the noble personages who founded the Harris Tweed Association, Limited—all, of course, wholly and solely in the interests of the crofters and native industries. But now it is alleged that the whole effect is to further sweat the unfortunate victims of the Scots landlords, and create a "corner" in the one industry left them.

A PHILANTHROPY THAT NEEDS EXPLAINING.

A few weeks ago a curious case was tried before Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield at the Guildhall, London, and I am indebted to *the Scotsman* for what is a strange and interesting revelation :—

Mr. Roderick MacLeod, Tailor, of Fore Street Avenue, London, appeared to answer adjourned summonses under the Merchandise Marks Act at the instance of the Harris Tweed Association (Limited), for having sold tweed to which a false trade description was applied—*i.e.*, "Harris Tweed."

Mr. A. H. Bodkin prosecuted, and said the proceedings were instituted to protect the industry of the "poor crofter."

Mr. Ian MacPherson, M.P., for the defence, denied that the Harris Tweed Association was in any way a philanthropic institution. Their aim, he declared, was to create a corner in Harris tweed, and to set up a combine with one or two allied associations. So little did they care for the poor crofters in the other islands of the outer Hebrides, that if the prosecution had taken the trouble to enquire, they would have found that the tweed sold by the defendant was made in the Island of Lewis.

The defendant was then called. A roll of cloth produced was the roll from which the complained of sample was cut. It was genuine Harris tweed. He purchased if from a Mr. Montgomery, whose mother wove the yarn.

Mr. Bodkin: Is the Harris Tweed Association a bogus institution?

Witness (with feeling): I have no hesitation in saying that it is a bogus institution to corner the trade.

Why do you say it is a bogus institution?—Why, because when a person or an association poses as the philanthropist of the poor, and sends agents to the islands to get the tweed at rock-bottom figures, and at the lowest at 2s. 10d., and sells it again in London for 5s. a yard, I say it is a shame on the poor crofters, who are made the objects or recipients of charity in the City of London.

The Alderman: The case is dismissed.

Mr. MacPherson asked for costs for the defendant.

Mr. Bodkin hoped that after the aspersion cast on the Association, his Worship would not grant costs.

Sir Charles Wakefield: I shall allow £25 costs.

A QUESTION FOR THE PATRONS.

We have here an association trading under the ægis of the noblest in the kingdom, and shielded by the Board of Trade, whilst it is alleged actually making a profit of cent. per cent. out of the misery of the crofters, and a business man, a City of London magistrate, marks his opinion of its methods and "philanthropy" by not only dismissing its application but mulcting it in £25 costs. Surely it cannot rest at this point!

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—CLXXV.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

APPEAL FOR AN OLD "CABBY."

We make an appeal on behalf of a sorely tried man who for some time past has been suffering from heart trouble and bronchitis, whilst his wife is a martyr to rheumatism. The man was for fifteen years a cab-driver, and his record of work is an excellent one. The couple have five children, and at present all they have to live upon is the earnings of one of them and when the rent is paid there is hardly enough left to provide bread, not to speak of anything else. Last year their eldest boy, a promising lad of 20, who was the main support of the home, died, and the father's heart troubles have now become chronic. Everything in the way of furniture or clothes upon which a shilling could be raised has gone to the pawn shop, and frequently these poor people are without food. And they are not only without food, they are without adequate clothing for the winter weather. They do not want to go into the workhouse if they can avoid it, and if they can hang on a little longer they are hoping that their son will be in a somewhat better position, and they themselves may be able to find some light work to help keep the home. Will any of our readers assist them?

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXX.—"Another Mason," 5s.;

CLXXI.—W. M. J., 5s.

CLXXII.—E. B., 5s.; H. M. C., 1s.; H. W., 5s.; G. W. H., 1s.

CLXXIII.—E. W. H., 2s. 6d.; "Eric," 5s.; E. B., 5s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; "Better Luck," 2s. 6d.; "Harold," 5s.; Z. Malaga, 2s. 6d.; "Teimlad," 20s.; "Wakefield," 1s.; "A Friend," 1s.; H. M. C., 1s.; A. P. T., 5s.; "Parrott," 2s. 6d.; "Mother of Two," 1s.; G. W. H., 1s.; "Ballachulish," 2s. 6d.; W. J. B., 2s.; X. Y. Z, 5s.; G. F., 2s. 6d.; "Soldier" (Warwick), 1s.; W. D., 1s.; J G. A., 2s. 6d; "Two Whist Losers," 2s.

CLXXIV.—"Joben," 20s.; W. D., 1s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.

A HARSH SENTENCE.

BIRKENHEAD BENCH BRUTALITY.

Our attention has been directed to the case of Evan Stephens, charged at the Borough Police Court, Birkenhead, and convicted for having used for his own purposes £2 3s. collected by him as an agent of the Pearl Life Assurance Company. The accused admitted his guilt, but pleaded that severe domestic affliction had induced him to use the money. There was no falsification of books, and he had given proper official receipts for all the amounts collected, which had been duly entered in the counterfoils. When the deficit was discovered, as it was bound to be when the books were inspected, Stephens at once forwarded the £2 3s. to the offices of the Company, but they returned it, saying that the matter was in the hands of the police. Stephens' record was an excellent one; he is only 24 years of age, is in delicate health, and at the hearing the prosecution intimated that they would be satisfied with a fine. Yet the magistrates refused to bring the case under the First Offenders' Act, and sent the accused to prison.

We are not surprised that there is a general feeling in Birkenhead and its neighbourhood that Stephens might well have been dealt with under the First Offenders' Act. Even then his punishment would have been a heavy one.

SIR HERBERT J. F. PARSONS, who received the honour of knighthood at the New Year, is, our readers will be interested to learn, the principal of Messrs. Ashton and Parsons, the proprietors of the famous preparation Phosferine, and is also largely interested in Dollond and Co., the well-known opticians.

"TRAVELLING AUCTIONEERS."

VARIOUS VIEWS OF THEIR COMMERCIAL MORALITY.

[Below we give extracts from a few of the many letters elicited by the recent article under our above heading.]

Several travelling auctioneers write that our Brixton correspondent is too sweeping in his denunciations, as there are many perfectly honest hard-working men engaged as travelling auctioneers. They visit the same towns from time to time, and offer the public good value for money, making friends and customers in every place. One of them, living in Hornsey, thinks that the working-man who purchased the 8s. 6d. watch for 50s. and then wanted his money back "must have been a very strange person indeed, and one who did not know his own mind." He admits that there are sharpers in the auction business, but asserts that this stricture applies to many other trades and professions, including jewellers, who, he says, practise a number of frauds—the "switch" for instance. He, in common with other travelling auctioneers, challenges the accuracy of the statement that the mock auctioneer referred to has a turnover of £1,000 per week, and makes 500 per cent. profit—at the present time, he says, auctioneers, like other traders, have to be content with a small profit. He comments that if the auctioneer stopping only a week in a "town" takes all the ready cash, the "town" must really be a village or hamlet. He has himself stayed in a place two or three months, and held a sale every evening, Sundays excepted. His personal experience of the ages of the auctioneers is that most of them have been on the road many years, and are certainly not young men of twenty-three or twenty-seven.

A Welsh reader says that our Brixton correspondent was too mild in his remarks. In his town there are no less than four large shops which have been converted into so-called auction rooms, and where poor working-men are deliberately robbed of their hard-earned cash. During the past month he has devoted all his spare time to attending these self-styled auction sales, and warning people against having anything to do with them. The system in the town referred to is to do a little conjuring at the door of the premises, so as to draw a crowd together, then gradually to work them into the premises, continuing the tricks all the while. When the real business is commenced, an announcement is made that "This is going to be an advertising sale." First of all, a few worthless articles, tied up in brown paper, are given away, the lucky people being told not to open the parcels in the room. The next move is (as the "auctioneers" term it) to "find the speculators." A little box is exhibited and somebody is asked to give 2s. 6d. for it as a "spec.," on the guarantee that it does not cost anything. The money is returned in this and some following cases, and then a watch is offered, which looks like gold, and for which £1 is asked, the people being led to believe that the money will also be returned. When half-a-dozen of these have been disposed of nothing is refunded, and the sale is declared to be over. The watches cost 2s. 9d. retail! Another "special line" is in the shape of a tea and coffee service sold for £2, but worth 6s. 3d.

An ex-employé in the business states that all that was said in the article, and a lot more, is perfectly true. He has now found other work, after acting as cashier, floorman, "pitcher," "gee-up man" (bidder), etc., only entering the "profession" because circumstances compelled him. He has heard a tea and coffee service described as "real Sheffield plate" and a tray as "real Carpathian (!) silver," when really the articles were made by a Birmingham firm, and cost from 13s. 4d. a set upwards. A genuine dealer in one town came in and tried to "blow the gaff," being promptly "put through it" by the auctioneer, who at one time was a good boxer!

THE POOR BISHOP!

[Speaking at Muswell Hill on behalf of his fund, the Bishop of London said that he had made "a handsome contribution to the fund out of his poverty."]

The Bishop's poverty extracts no tear,
Instead, it calls from me a lively wish up;
I'd like to have, say, twenty thou. per year,
Then I'd be twice as poor as this poor Bishop!

R.M.

PANTOMIME IN THE PROVINCES.

SHOWING HOW WHAT IS FUN TO THE AUDIENCE FREQUENTLY MEANS DEATH TO THE ARTISTES.

[An old actor describes the horrible conditions which pantomime performers frequently have to endure in their dressing rooms, and urges the sanitary inspection of such places.]

An actor of fifteen years' standing gives us some of his experiences in a travelling pantomime company. He says that if the public had any idea of what kind of dirty, ill-lighted, and unventilated dressing rooms—some of them are, he asserts, more like dungeons—performers have to use, there would be such an outcry as would compel the proprietors of many theatres to pull down the backs of their houses. He has known hundreds of artistes to suffer from head, chest and throat complaints through being compelled to use such places, sometimes in common with many others. As a typical experience, a fortnight ago there was a "heap" of them in a room together, with no window or ventilation of any kind. They were compelled to be on the premises from 5.45 till 11.20 p.m. each night, with no chance of a minute's fresh air—nothing to breathe but the dust from the cloths and scenery, and all the bad breath from the audience and themselves. These odours, mingling with the smell of wet "sweaters," some of which were old, mildewed, and had been kept in baskets from one year's end to another, have, he says, to be endured to be appreciated.

Why do not the authorities step in and inspect such places? The hall referred to above is but one of many. Thousands of pounds are made by the proprietors, and never one thought is given about the health and comfort of the artistes to whose exertions these gains are mainly due.

IS THIS YEAR A.D. 1916?

By A. Gambier Bolton.

The Christian clergy, to a man, know well that this is so, but the matter is kept a secret from the laity, for obvious reasons.

Our method of dating the year from the first Christmas Day—commonly, but quite erroneously, supposed to be A.D.O.—was invented by a monk, Dionysius Exiguus, in an Italian monastery, in A.D. 525. He was a bit of a mathematician and an astrologer, and thinking that the heathen mode of counting time, extant in his day, was not of sufficient worthiness for the Christian religion, he set to work to alter this, fixing the Roman year 753 (*i.e.*, seven hundred and fifty-three years since the foundation of the city of Rome; the way in which time was counted in his day) as that of the first Christmas Day. The idea caught on at once, and spread rapidly over the Christian world, although France and England did not accept it until three hundred years later.

It was then found that a mistake of *four years* had been made by the monk, the correct date for the first Christmas Day being 749 years after the foundation of Rome. This was proved conclusively from Roman history, for we know that Herod the Great began to reign in the year 714 (Foundation of Rome), and that he reigned thirty-seven years; he died, therefore, in 751 (F. of R.). The massacre of the children of Bethlehem, recorded in the New Testament, occurred two years before the death of Herod, when Christ was two years old.

In the margin, just above the second chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, the mistake is admitted, and it is stated quite plainly there that the first Christmas Day was not on A.D.O., but in B.C. 4; in plain English four years *before* Christ; so that the whole of our chronology has been thrown out four years in consequence, and next year will be A.D. 1916. Every letter written, every cheque or legal document signed, since A.D. 525 has borne a false date as a result of this blunder.

Our Great Football Competition.
£3,000 IN PRIZES.
For Particulars see page 30.
Coupons from *Lotinga's Weekly* are also available.

LEARN HOW TO TRAIN YOUR MIND FOR SUCCESS.

THE SECRET OF MENTAL CONCENTRATION AND POWER.

A Course of Training that Repays a Thousand-fold its Cost.

Every JOHN BULL reader is given the opportunity to-day to train his or her mind to "win through" to success.

Particulars are printed below. The system is a well-tried one, already known to a large number of readers to whom it has on many occasions been recommended by our Editor. Its success is proved in thousands of cases. It has already enabled thousands of men and women to improve their positions in life and to secure well-paid posts in the business and profesional world. It will enable you to do the same—and that in a few weeks.

THE INCOME DIVIDING LINE OF YOUR BODY.

You can get much bigger returns from training your mind than from training your body—although there is no reason why you shouldn't train both.

But for 100 people who train their bodies there is only one who trains his or her mind.

Yet a trained mind earns infinitely more than a trained body.

The income dividing line of your body runs somewhere about the chin. It is a line that divides the income-value of your physical system into two very unequal parts.

The value of a man from his chin downwards is, on an average, about 4s. per day.

But his value from his chin upwards may be anything—£1 a day, £5 a day, £50 a day—it depends on how he uses his brain.

Remember this:—

Your mind must be scientifically trained and systematically organised on certain definite principles if it is to be worth a high income value.

You can better your brain's book-keeping by taking advantage of the opportunity given you to-day and writing for the free book, which tells you all about this remarkable system which enables you to increase the income-value of your brain by pounds sterling a week.

HOW TWO HOURS A WEEK DURING THE WINTER EVENINGS WILL INCREASE YOUR INCOME.

This system is a scientific course of Mind and Memory Training which repays its small cost a thousand-fold. You can follow it in your spare time. Give a couple of hours one evening a week to this system, and by the New Year you will have enormously improved the working and earning power of your mind. You will acquire just those mental qualities which enable men and women to achieve rapid success in their particular occupations. The opportunity has come to you to-day to adopt this system, and through its means to achieve Mental Power, Authoritative Position, and Financial Prosperity.

Modern business (in which word we include for convenience' sake all legitimate occupations and approved methods of making money) has become a Science.

It is a science for which certain definite mental training is required. This training is productive of marvellous, almost unbelievable results. These results begin to come in immediately. In other words, this Scientific Mind-Training (which you can now adopt yourself) causes you to make rapid progress directly you acquire it.

The progress amongst his fellows of the man with a trained and organised business brain is like the progress of a swift motor launch amidst a harbour full of slow-going rowing-boats. The launch begins to gather way directly her motor is started. Swiftly she gathers pace, and in a few moments is racing through the water at top speed.

So it is with those whose brains are trained and organised in Pelman principles. All early competitors and rivals are quickly left behind. Onward you go from one well-paid position to a better one, to find Wealth, Position, and all that Success denotes within your reach whilst you are still young enough to enjoy it.

MAKING MONEY QUICKLY WHILST STILL YOUNG.

The life histories of our most successful business men prove this. One of the most striking features of their careers is the rapidity with which these men made their money. They did not achieve Success after the labours of a lifetime. They won it in a few years and were rich and successful whilst still young.

Joseph Chamberlain made his fortune and retired from business by the time he was thirty-five, and was thus enabled to enter on a political career while still comparatively young.

The mind trained for Success brings in quick returns.

That is why the opportunity given you to-day (to train your mind on Business principles) holds such immediate value for you.

Write to the address below and by return you will receive a full official report (in book form) of the work of the Pelman School of the Mind. This report is sent you gratis and post free. From it you will learn just what the Pelman system (which is most interesting and easy to follow) will do for you while the New Year is still young.

Amongst the mind and memory improvements it shows you how to attain are the following:—

How to cure Forgetfulness and Mind Wandering and develop a magnificent never-forgetting memory.

How to remember dates, facts, figures, names, faces, complicated data of every kind, and never to forget them again.

How to pass examinations with much less than the usual preparation, and to pass them brilliantly too.

How to "get up" difficult subjects accurately and in much shorter time than usual (this is most useful to busy barristers, lawyers, and journalists).

How to learn foreign languages in from quarter to half the usual time.

How to add up rows of figures and work out complicated sums and accounts with the greatest rapidity and accuracy.

How to "think on your feet" and make fluent speeches without previous preparation.

How to acquire "selling ability" and the power of logical, persuasive, convincing reasoning.

How to develop the invaluable "business training" qualities of—Mental Concentration, Rapid Perception, and Assimilation of New Facts, Judgment,
Great Mental Energy,
Organising Ability,
Forcefulness, "Go-ahead"-ness,
and those other similar mental qualities which make other people have confidence in you, and which enable you to make your way in the world rapidly, and to gain and retain important positions and "big money."

Students who have Examinations to pass,
Clerks who wish to become Managers,
Managers who wish to become Directors,
Shop Assistants who wish to have shops of their own,
Salesmen and Travellers who wish to sell more goods,
Proprietors of Small Businesses who wish to make these small businesses big,
Preachers and Politicians who wish to improve their delivery and the fluency of their speech,
Insurance Canvassers who wish to get more Insurance,
Solicitors and Barristers who wish to win more cases,
School Teachers, Tutors, and Governesses who wish to teach better,
Authors and Journalists who wish to write more fluently and easily,
will find this book on Mind and Memory Training (sent you free on application) absolutely invaluable.

Soldiers and Sailors who wish to gain commissioned rank,

Every ambitious man or woman, young or old, who intends to "get on" is enormously assisted by practising this System for an hour or so a week—in their own homes. All the books and papers for following the System are given free, and become the property of those who take the Course, payment for which can be paid when desired, in easy instalments. The cost is extremely small. You get it back in a week or so (after completing the Course) in the increased money you make.

OFFICIAL BOOK OF THE SYSTEM AWAITS YOUR APPLICATION—FREE.

No charge is made for it—not even for postage.

Just send your name and address, a postcard will do, to the PELMAN SCHOOL OF THE MIND, 15, WENHAM HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON, W.C., and a copy of this interesting illustrated book will be sent you by return post free and without payment. It shows you how to organise your mind for success by means of a Course of Training that repays its cost a thousand-fold.

Our readers abroad can obtain this book from Pelman Schools at the following places: 9, Churchgate Street, Bombay; 47, Queen Street, Melbourne; Club Arcade, Durban; and 3, Amalienstr, Munich.

LAW GUARANTEE TRUST.

WHY SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD PRESS FOR A PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

It appears from the official statements made at the general meeting of the Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society, held a few days ago, that unless action is taken from outside nothing will be done in the way of pressing for a public enquiry into the conduct of the directors of this institution. Mr. Peat told the meeting that a case was submitted to Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Maugham, and that these counsel have given it as their opinion that "there is no prospect of success in proceedings by the liquidator based on allegations of negligence on the part of the directors or Mr. Ronald." The importance of this opinion cannot be gauged unless and until we have the "case" submitted for the consideration of counsel, and even if the case as submitted contained the necessary materials for forming an opinion, it is to be remembered that counsel are not infallible, and that Sir Edward Carson may have had his mind unconsciously influenced by having acted as counsel for the younger Ronald in our successful litigation with that individual. Mr. Pemberton Leach, speaking on behalf of the shareholders' committee, said that that body "had cordially joined in the recommendation of their colleagues that nothing short of a thorough investigation would serve to set at ease the minds of all concerned, that such an investigation should forthwith be initiated, and that it should take the form of a public enquiry." It may be added that this very strong opinion is also the reconsidered view of the Lord Chief Justice of England. But there is not the slightest probability of such an enquiry being held unless shareholders are willing to do what they did in the case of Mr. Whitaker Wright, namely, join together to press for the enquiry, and go to the Courts to get it. We are afraid they are not likely to do this, and yet we should have thought that Mr. Pemberton Leach's admissions at the meeting would have satisfied them that such enquiry is imperative. Mr. Leach was chairman of the committee appointed by the shareholders, and although he says that in the opinion of the committee a case of fraud cannot be made out against the directors, he made these remarkable statements:—

> With regard to the balance sheets of 1906-7-8 it seemed reasonably certain that the true position of the Society was not disclosed in its accounts.

And again:—

> In 1907 when the Preference Shares were issued there was an overdraft of £100,000 . . . but the Chairman of the annual meeting of that year, referring to the issue of Preference shares, did not say anything about the overdraft of £100,000.

These are very staggering allegations. According to Mr. Pemberton Leach, the balance-sheets of the last three years of the active existence of the company did not disclose its position. Whose fault was that? The responsibility must rest between the directors and the auditors. What have the auditors to say to that very serious suggestion? And then as to the Preference issue. At the meeting which sanctioned the issue Mr. Harris was pointedly asked by a shareholder whether it was in any way referable to an unfavourable condition of the business, and Mr. Turner answered "No." He said the money was wanted to make a successful business more successful. It was, in fact, wanted in considerable part to pay a debt to the bank, which was pressing for payment. How can the failure to disclose this be justified?

Mr. Pemberton Leach was pressed to publish the report of the committee, but he sheltered himself behind the Registrar. We cannot conceive the justification for withholding the publication. Mr. Leach says the report has been handed to the liquidator, but the liquidator has nothing to do with it. The committee was appointed by the shareholders, it was directed to report to the shareholders, and the shareholders have the first right to know the conclusions at which their committee arrived.

"CHOOSING A CLERK."

Major Munday writes to us to point out that the St. Pancras Board of Guardians had nothing to do with the appointment of Clerk to the Justices of the Petty Sessional Division of St. Pancras. The appointment was made by the Justices.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS FUND.

SPLENDID WORK DONE—FINAL LIST OF DONATIONS.

[We return our final thanks to those generous readers who assisted us to brighten many a poverty-stricken home at Christmas time.]

We have to return our heartfelt thanks to those generous readers who have responded so nobly to our appeal for money, clothing, toys, etc., in connection with our distribution amongst the poor. We have thus been enabled to bring a large amount of sunshine into many a wretched home—and it would have done the hearts of our readers good to have witnessed the happiness—alas all too temporary—of the recipients of their charity. By means of the money subscribed we distributed orders on local tradesmen for meat, bread, groceries, and coals, and this work was largely supplemented by the splendid generosity of Sir Thomas Lipton, who again loaded us up with magnificent meat pies, cakes, and oranges; whilst Messrs. Fry generously gave a large quantity of beautiful chocolates. Then there were the hundreds of parcels of toys and clothing, upon the sorting of which a committee of lady friends, who gladly gave their services, had been occupied for a fortnight. Not the least satisfactory feature of the whole thing is that the Fund has not been charged with one penny of expense, the whole of the work having been of a voluntary character, and any little incidental outgoings having been willingly borne by the proprietors of this journal, who also added £50 to the Fund. We again thank all helpers, and are proud and happy to have been their almoner.

Below is a final list of donations and gifts:—

A. W., 5s.; "Postie," 6d.; "A Thanksgiving," 20s.; R. J. F., 2s.; C. S., 1s.; "Libianio," 10s.; W. R. S., 2s. 6d.; "Bill," 2s.; "Northwich Sympathiser," 1s.; H. W., 5s.; C. R. A., 2s.; "Wilhelmina Muggins," 2s. 6d.; G. V. R., 20s.; "Aber," 10s.; A. G., 2s. 6d.; "Crossdoney," 2s. 6d.; W. G. B., 1s.; M. B., 1s. 6d.; E. C., 2s. and parcel of clothing; "Lover of Children," 2s.; A. S. C., 5s.; J. and L. Southam, 2s.; V., 2s. 6d.; G. L. (Ipswich), 5s.; W. J. T. W., 5s.; M. C. J., 2s. 6d.; "Married," 1s.; W. J. T., 5s.; H. L., 5s.; J. T., 10s.; H. W. K., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. K., 2s. 6d.; "Norah T.," 3s.; Mr. and Mrs. E. G., 2s.; "Anonymous," 6d.; G. H., 5s.; F. and A., 2s.; J. N. A., 2s.; J. G. L., 1s.; from "Three Tiny Mites," 2s.; "Anonymous." 2s.

Collected by E. Berry, Dansey Yard Station, Gas Light and Coke Company, 9s. 9d.; collected by S. Pickworth, Westminster station, Gas Light and Coke Company, £1.

Parcels of clothing, toys, etc., have been sent by the following: "Tony and Pegg," R. A., E. H. W., "Two Ogmore Vale Socialists," "A Poor Waiter," Mrs. S., C. R., Mrs. L. H. R., C. F. P. (Sutton), "Childless Wife," "Ell Dee," A. B. H., "One Who Would Have Liked to Have Done More," E. T. W., "Two Little Cousins," "Mac," "The Lea," Mrs. M. B. R., Mrs. M. S. P., "Mannis" (Upton Park), F. B., Ronald P., Mrs. L. and "Little Girl," L. E. H., M. N., R. L., I. P. A., Miss McE., Mrs. W., Mrs. W. F. B., W. L. L. R., Mrs. W. M. G., G. E., A. W., Mrs. D., C. E. N. L., "One in Sympathy," Master C. D., R. J. W., M. S. P., Mrs. C., Mrs. T., "Constant Reader" (Whitstable), S. S., "Bert and Ronnie," L. W., "Archie."

"FLOATING HELLS."

[Our articles under this heading have inspired a steward on a well-known "liner" to perpetrate the following epitaph.]

A STONE, A BRUSH, A LITTLE SAND.

My race is run, and free from vice,
I've scrubbed my way to Paradise
On knees that ache no more.
I've signed aboard a Heavenly ship,
To take me on my final trip,
Unto the Golden Shore.

No ports to burnish when they're green,
The only bright-work that I clean
Is on my golden crown.
No rising at the stroke of five,
As I was forced to when alive,
No "Bloods" to do me down.

Pray, gentle shipmate, do not weep,
Or sprinkle blossoms on the heap
That covers such a knave;
But place, when darkness hides the land,
A stone, a brush, a little sand,
Upon my silent grave.

CHANGING THE NATIONAL PALATE!

Wonderful Effect of Sandow's Health & Strength Cocoa.

THE "DRINK-DIET" DE LUXE OF THE RICH & THE SUSTENANCE OF THE NATION'S WORKERS

During recent years the progress of Civilisation has resulted in many great changes. The upward movement has been very apparent in the remarkable development which has taken place in the Food Products of the Nation. Science has been enlisted to a wonderful degree in perfecting the processes of manufacture of the various standard articles of food. To-day it is the undoubted and recognised fact that a New National Palate has been evolved. Men and women now demand a more concentrated form of food-value than was hitherto procurable, and the strain of 20th century life has tended to greatly accentuate this movement.

It is only necessary to refer to the increased and still

GROWING COST OF LIVING,

about which so much has lately been said, to illustrate how serious this problem has become. Mr. Sandow's vast experience as the recognised world's expert of Health Culture gave him unique opportunities of studying this great question, and his new Cocoa is the result of the minute and prolonged search which he undertook with a view to meeting this ever-growing need.

Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa is now universally recognised as the greatest advance of the age, in the provision of a beverage that is at once health-sustaining, muscle-forming, brain-preserving, nerve-toning, and strength producing. Its introduction was immediately followed by a stupendous demand, and it is now beyond all question that this colossal initial success was but the precursor of its present proud and already established position as

THE "DRINK DIET" OF THE AGE.

Indeed, it is the fact that although it is sold at the low price (within the reach of the poorest worker in the Kingdom) of 3d. packet, or 7½d. per full-weight ½lb. tin, it is to-day as easily procurable and as much in demand in the luxurious hotels and restaurants of the West End as it is in the humble dwellings of the East.

No other product in living memory has so quickly or so firmly established itself in the homes of all classes as Sandow's "Health and Strength" Cocoa, which is at once the "Drink-Diet de Luxe" for the man and woman of fashion and wealth, and the sustaining beverage of the daily worker.

A NOTE OF INQUIRY IN THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS.

Thousands of testimonials have poured into Mr. Sandow's huge and palatial new premises at the Elephant and Castle, and through them all runs the same spirit of inquiry. How does Mr. Sandow produce such a superlatively good article at the price—only 7½d. per full-weight ½lb. tin? And again, what extraordinary processes have been adopted to make cocoa a possible beverage to thousands who before were unable to drink it without unpleasant after-effects, such as biliousness, heaviness, indigestion, &c.?

The answer is that Mr. Sandow himself set the task of producing the new "Drink-Diet" with the full knowledge of the difficulties to be overcome. He

saw the need for conforming to the requirements of the improved palate gradually being evolved, and the essential elimination of the excess of fatty constituents which had hindered the popularity of cocoa in this country.

THE IDEAL FOOD PRODUCT

should contain two parts of Nitrogenous to one part of Fatty constituents. Sandow's Cocoa exactly conforms to this requirement.

The elimination of a portion of the fat has not only been in accord with scientific demands, but has also made the new Cocoa the most easily digested product of its kind now obtainable—a priceless boon to the dyspeptic.

HARNESSING THE WIND TO REFINE "HEALTH & STRENGTH" COCOA.

All the resources of Science have been utilised to perfect the manufacture of Sandow's Cocoa, and the very elements have been harnessed to assist. By a special secret process of wind-sifting by patented machinery a much finer Cocoa has been produced than could be obtained in any other way—the result being that the solubility of the Cocoa is perfect, even in cold water. This fineness of grinding makes the Cocoa bulk larger than any other, so that, cup for cup, it is the cheapest pure Cocoa on the market.

These are some of the advantages which have made "Health and Strength Cocoa" pre-eminent and supreme. Thousands of new consumers are daily benefiting from the provision of this superlative product, and those who have not yet enjoyed its wonderful qualities should at once procure a tin of this veritable boon to the Nation, and test for themselves whether the claims here set out are justified or not. You can make this valuable test at the trifling expense of a 3d. packet. A full-weight ½lb. tin costs only 7½d., ½lb. 1s. 3d., 1lb. 2s. 6d.

7½d.—A WEEK'S FAMILY TEST.

The ½lb. tin is sufficient for a family test of one week. Begin the test to-day. Get a tin of the new Health-Drink at once and take a cup at Supper-time. You will be astonished at the fascination of its flavour; at its smooth and velvety caress of the Palate! It is unlike anything you have ever had before, and in the morning you will be delighted to find yourself fresher and brighter on awakening.

Take another cup at Breakfast; it will buoy you up all the morning, and you will not again experience that sinking feeling an hour or so before lunch time.

You will not want any invitation to take a cup of Sandow's Cocoa at supper that night! The fascination of its flavour will have captured you, and the morning and evening cup of the new "Drink-Diet de Luxe" will take its place in the routine of your daily life.

Day by day you will find yourself improved in health and strength, each cup will leave direct evidence of its beneficial effect on your system.

None need delay this personal test. Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa is stocked by all Grocers, Chemists, Provision-Dealers and Stores throughout the Kingdom, but if your local dealer is out of stock send 7½d., 1s. 3d., or 2s. 6d. (according to the size tin required) and it will be sent post free direct from Mr. Eugen Sandow, Elephant and Castle, London, S.E.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

[*In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.*]

MR. JOHN REDMOND.

"A happy New Year to you!" I cried, advancing with outstretched hand.

Mr. Redmond grasped it and shook it vigorously.

"Happy, is ut?" he exclaimed. "Oi was niver so happy in me loife. Home Rule's in soight. .Ut's Oireland's Proime Ministher Oi'll be in no toime."

"Who's to be your Speaker?" I asked.

"Thot'll be left tu the House," replied Mr. Redmond. "But," he added, laying his finger alongside his nose and winking quaintly, "Oi don't moind tellun you thot Oi've got a Spaker in me oye."

"Who is it?" I questioned eagerly.

"William O'Brien," whispered Mr. Redmond.

"What?" I exclaimed. "Why, he is one of your strongest opponents in the House of Commons!"

"Ut's meself thot knows ut," retorted Mr. Redmond coolly. "Thot's whoy Oi shall make the Spaker of 'um—tu kape 'um quiet."

"I see," I said. "And I suppose you will make Timothy Healy Deputy Speaker for the same reason."

"Ut's a thrue worrd ye've spoken," replied Mr. Redmond.

"You appear to have made all your plans," I observed.

"Iviry wan av thim," responded Mr. Redmond.

"There's many a slip 'twixt the cup, etc.," I reminded the Member for Waterford.

"Divil a shlip there'll be this toime," returned Mr. Redmond confidently. "Oi've paid Lloyd George's proice. Oi've supparted the Budget and Insurance Act—bad ccss tu ut! Now ut's paymint Oi want."

"But the Government are not quite out of the wood with the Insurance Act," I said. "It would not surprise me at all if, even now, at this late hour, the Act fails to come into operation."

"Thot's no matther," retorted Mr. Redmond. "Oi supparted ut. Now ut's paymint Oi want."

"But the House of Lords is not yet altogether impotent," I reminded him. "You must not think that because the Peers passed the Insurance Bill they are bound to pass a Home Rule Bill."

"They can't prevint ut becoming law in the loife toime av the prisint Parrlymint, anyhow," replied Mr. Redmond.

"But there is no guarantee that it will even pass the House of Commons this year," I added. "Many things may happen. There is a possibility of war. The Government are at sixes and sevens regarding Women's Suffrage. Welsh Disestablishment and Manhood Suffrage are down on the overcrowded programme. Altogether your chances don't look very rosy."

"Arra, bad cess tu ye for a croakin' raven!" shouted Mr. Redmond.

"Then the Budget will occupy several months, for sure," I added.

"Saints in Hivin!" cried Mr. Redmond, invoking the ceiling.

"The best thing you can do," I advised him, "is to turn the Government out, and bargain with the Conservative Party for a reasonable measure of self-government."

"Begorra, but Oi think ye're roight!" exclaimed Mr. Redmond. "Mebbe Oi'll do ut."

BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE POST OFFICE (PARCELS' PROTECTION) BILL.

[*This is one of a series of suggested measures for dealing with admitted nuisances. They may be heartily supported by members of all parties—and of none.*]

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—With a view to ensuring reasonable protection for postal packages (other than letters, postcards, newspapers, and book packages) passing through the post, strong wicker baskets shall be provided for the same in place of the canvas bags hitherto in use.

2.—All packages marked "Fragile," "With care," or bearing any other legend or inscription indicating the need of careful handling, shall be packed together in extra-strong baskets especially provided for that purpose.

3.—Any sorter detected in the act of throwing, chucking, or pitching any postal packet marked "Fragile," or bearing any other similar warning, into any basket or other receptacle, or casting the same violently or carelessly upon any table, counter, or other fixture, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Postmaster-General, to instant dismissal.

4.—Any sorter frivolously or maliciously throwing any postal packet at another sorter, whereby the safety of the contents of the said postal packet may be endangered, shall be liable to instant dismissal, and, further, may be summoned before a magistrate and sentenced, upon conviction, to one month's imprisonment, without hard labour, for attempted wilful damage.

5.—Any sorter detected in the act of wilfully jumping on, or kicking, any postal packet (other than those exceptions detailed in Clause 1) shall be liable to instant dismissal, and, further, may be summoned before a magistrate and sentenced, upon conviction, to six months' hard labour for wilful and malicious damage.

6.—At seasons of high pressure all postmasters and sub-postmasters shall engage a sufficient number of extra sorters to obviate confusion and rush in the sorting rooms, and to ensure due care being taken of all postal packages passing through their hands.

7.—All postmasters and sub-postmasters shall be held personally responsible for the safety of all postal packages passing through the post-office over which they have control, and shall be liable for the value of any article damaged in sorting or in course of delivery in their districts.

8.—This Act may be cited as The Post Office (Parcels' Protection) Act, 1912.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

ALWAYS IN SEASON.

[*Parliament is prorogued, and the pantomime season is in full swing.*]

When Parliament adjourns, we see the pantomimes begin;
A little further search, and 'twill be found
When pantomime is over, Parliament begins again—
So pantomime we get the whole year round.

ON THE ROCKS.

[*Six French sailors were stranded, through the loss of their boat, on the rocks near Ushant, and were rescued in a bad state after two days.*]

Brave sailors, pity goes to you,
But learn from fate how man contrives;
You suffered two days on the rocks—
Some men are on them all their lives.

Ricardo.

Mr. T. Sharper Knowlson, author of "The Art of Thinking" and of other books, has joined the staff of the Pelman School of the Mind. An entirely new edition of the famous Pelman Course is now ready, and special terms are being offered during this month to our readers. Applications should, however, be made at once, as the number of enrolments is necessarily limited.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

WONDERFUL EYESIGHT CURES.

EXTRAORDINARILY STRIKING CONFIRMATION OF THE FAVOURABLE OPINION RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY "JOHN BULL" AS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW METHOD OF RESTORING PERFECT SIGHT.

Hundreds of Eyesight Sufferers now benefiting. Cases of over 25 years' standing obtaining sight improvement in less than a month.

Everyone whose eyesight or eyes are defective or troublesome should certainly write at once to Mr. John Levison for free particulars of his marvellous discovery.

About seven weeks ago my first announcement stating that I had discovered and perfected a simple, safe method by which practically all forms of eye weakness and eyesight trouble could be overcome appeared in JOHN BULL. So many readers made enquiries of me for a full description of my discovery that JOHN BULL considered it necessary to investigate on behalf of the general public the genuineness of my claims. On December 2nd last the report of JOHN BULL'S investigation appeared, and, as all regular readers will remember, this report was a highly satisfactory one, with the immediate result that a very large number of readers with all manner of eyesight troubles enrolled themselves for a course of my treatment.

Now already, although only a few weeks have passed, I am proud and delighted to be able to lay before JOHN BULL readers some of the reports I am daily receiving from those who so recently commenced to obtain the wonderful benefits which I have so confidently asserted must follow the use of my discovery. I would at the same time say to all who have written to me already—can you, in view of these reports, in justice to yourselves, reasonably refrain from adopting my method which is doing so much for others?

To all eyesight sufferers who have not yet communicated with me, I say do not let another day pass without writing for my book, which is illustrated and explains fully my discovery and its application so that everyone can carry it out at home and at an expense so small as to be within everyone's means, and which is trivial compared with the immeasurable benefits secured. I have so arranged the cost because I determined that the Levison treatment shall be the means of overcoming the terribly prevalent and insidious eyesight decadence which is so neglected and so rampant to-day that the leading occulist of our time says that 22,000,000 people out of the 40,000,000 in this country require either sooner or later just such eyesight aid as my treatment naturally gives.

Glasses are disfiguring, troublesome and expensive, whilst my treatment restores the strength of the sight itself. Hence its remarkable success. If you are an eyesight sufferer and can call, come and see me any day between 10 and 1 o'clock or 3 and 6 o'clock; if a call is not convenient, write to me from wherever you live; I can help you. I append a form for convenience of all, and I shall welcome enquiries thereon from eyesight sufferers of either sex and any age who would like to learn fully about my method, and will, with pleasure, send my book entirely free to each.

A typical case is that of a patient, aged 30, who had been short-sighted for over 25 years! He commenced following my method on October 26th, and called to-day to tell me that he had so much better vision that a few days ago he went to the skilled optician who had previously for years supplied him with strong glasses to have his sight retested. The occulist told him it was useless to retest as there was no hope of it being better after all these years. Pressed to make an examination, the optician did so, and exhibited unbounded astonishment upon finding a most marked improvement, and immediately ordered less strong glasses to be worn until the treatment should have completed the cure.

A London lady, after about three weeks, sends the following report, which explains itself:

> DEAR MR. LEVISON,—I have pleasure in saying that your treatment for my eyes is beyond my expectations; indeed, words are inadequate to express my gratitude for so wonderful a remedy. My sight was dim, and the least strain would make my eyes water and get inflamed; this treatment allays all such disagreeable sensations, and my eyes feel stronger and the world *looks* brighter, the eyeballs being clearer and indeed altogether different. I sincerely trust that such a remedy may get known to poor suffering humanity, and with grateful thanks,
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
> H——— E———

Another patient, Miss S. D., of Worcester, writes:—"I am so thankful to inform you that my eyes are so much better from your wonderfull treatment; the heavy aching pain has gone, and I feel much brighter. . . . Thanking you for your good treatment, which I will recommend to my friends, and wishing you every success."

So grateful are patients that they are losing no opportunities of telling their friends, with the result that sufferers frequently introduce themselves to me in a letter similar to the following, from which I quote the opening sentence:—

> Mr. C. W. H., King's Norton, Birmingham:—"I have proof of your marvellous treatment from a friend who has until recently been one of the vast numbers who wear, glasses," etc., etc.

These are only five typical instances out of hundreds already reporting favourably. Can you, I repeat, if your sight is (1) Failing or weakening, (2) Failing of long sight, (3) Failing of short sight, (4) Blurring, (5) Twitching eyes, (6) Hot eyes, (7) Watery eyes, (8) Discharging eyes, (9) Unequal power of eyes, (10) Aching eyes, (11) Red and inflamed eyes, (12) Eyesight headache, refrain from consulting me, either personally or by forwarding the form below?

JOHN BULL.

Eyesight Coupon.

For Free Particulars (illustrated) of Mr. John Levison's Treatment for Failing Sight.

To Mr. JOHN LEVISON, Eyesight Specialist,
19, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

Please write plainly, saying whether Mr., Mrs., Miss, Rev., or other title.

Enclose 1d. stamp for postage.

Name (in full) .....

Address .....

.....

J.B., Jan. 6, 1912.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, India.

DEAR RANJI,—Though you are a Jam out in India and apparently remarkably preserved, most of us in this country remember you under the more familiar appellation of Ranjitsinhji; though I recall you told me on one occasion that you didn't much mind what people called you as long as they did not charge you with eating onions! But it is now quite a long time since we met, and until the other day, reading one of the Bombay newspapers, it is almost as long since I noticed your name in the papers. How you do seem to be enjoying yourself as a Jam! I notice you had a silver state coach built to take your Magnificence to the Delhi Durbar—and a splendid affair it is, too. Covered throughout with solid silver plates, handsomely engraved and chased with real gold relief; each silver plate and border a distinct design of great artistic merit; upholstered portions of coach and hood finished in rich brocades embroidered in gold and silver; hammercloth of same material, bearing your coat of arms in sterling silver, even the bolts and nuts being of that rather precious metal, though why you did not have them made of solid gold set with diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires, and other dazzling jewels while you were about it I cannot understand. Were you, perhaps, thinking of a few stray debts and other little things you left behind you here? Or it may be that the reason is that the Kathiawar Province, wherein Nawanagar is situate, has been devastated by famine owing to the failure of the monsoon, and that the poor peasants of whom you are lord and master are driving their cattle into the jungle as the small quantity of water remaining in the wells is too precious to be used for it, and that their crops have rotted in the fields through the drought. Or, again, it may be that, being so deeply in debt in Bombay, you thought a silver state carriage, all things considered, was as much as you could afford. But if solicitude for your people and your creditors did, in fact, move you to so glaring an example of self-sacrifice, why didn't you carry it further and go to the Durbar in an ordinary carriage, with brass hubs and rubber-tyred wheels? A Jam who cannot afford a gold carriage has no necessity for a silver one—notwithstanding that the Governor of Bombay "expressed his high appreciation" of it.

You are in the position of a ruler of lives, and it would be more in keeping with that character—and, perhaps, wiser—among a people of your own race not to remind them so much of their poverty and suffering by flaunting so much regal splendour before their eyes. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Alderman Ridyard, Mayor of Stalybridge.

PLEASE YOUR WORSHIP,—From a recent discourse of Mr. Councillor Tonge in the Town Council I gather that twenty-one members have recently had a picnic—I know those picnics!—at the waterworks—I know those waterworks!—and that the bill came to £26 1s. 5d., settled, of course, by the genial and generous ratepayers of your charming town. Considering that the Committee had lunch, dinner, wine, whisky, and cigars—I trust they had the pleasure of your worship's company—25s. a head does not seem an exorbitant price. But will your worship elucidate for me what was meant by Mr. Councillor Tonge when he said that the visitors sang the Holmfirth Anthem? What *is* the Holmfirth Anthem, my dear Mayor? Is it "We won't go home till morning"? And at what period of the day or night did they sing it; also how? Though the sight of a Corporation waterworks is enough to drive anybody to drink, far be it from me to suggest that, having found the works still full of water, the visitors rose to sing the Holmfirth Anthem in recognition of the fact that they were full of whisky. That, I am confident, would be a suggestion both inaccurate and inappropriate to those principles of temperance which guide and actuate the conduct of Corporation picnics at the ratepayers' expense wherever they may be in season, but I do venture to express the hope that the anthem was sung in tune and with the enunciation and expression essential to the proper interpretation of the higher song. Remember me to all the aldermen and councillors, likewise to the Town Clerk, the Borough Treasurer and other municipal pillars.
JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Alderman Cross, Chairman of the Watch Committee, Shrewsbury.

DEAR ALD.,—I frankly own to you that it was with considerable surprise I heard of the investigation by the Watch Committee of the serious charge made against the Chief Constable by Councillor J. R. Morris. The charge being proved and admitted, not less frankly must I tell you that in my view the Committee have not taken that serious notice of it which it demands. Let us consider what the charge is and what the proof is according to the Committee. "They find," says the report; "it is correct that upon April 20th, 1907, Sergeant F. Davies handed to the Chief Constable the sum of £11 11s., which represented the profits of a football match previously played between the Shrewsbury police and the employés of Messrs. Maddox and Co., Ltd., which were to be given to charities. Owing to a misunderstanding the money was not paid until November 4th, 1911, when Sergeant Davies spoke to the Chief Constable about it. . . . While fully exonerating the Chief Constable from any thought or intention of improperly employing the money entrusted to his custody, the Committee cannot hold him blameless in retaining the same in his possession for so long a period as four years without taking steps to deal with it or ascertain the opinion of the donors as to its allocation and distribution." Thus is the Chief Constable elegantly whitewashed.

What I do not notice is any explanation of the nature of the "misunderstanding," with whom it arose, or why it should have persisted for so long. Nor can I see that the report gives any information as to where the money was retained all this time. Was it placed on special deposit account, or was it reposing in the pocket of the Chief Constable? Who or what inspired Sergeant Davies to remind his superior officer that this £11 11s. had not been paid over? His duty was to pay over the money as soon as he had ascertained the balance and decided which charities were to benefit. But he kept it for four years, until Sergeant Davies reminded him that he had forgotten about it. For this "the Committee cannot hold him blameless." Of course not, Mr. Alderman; but surely the Committee might have rewarded him with a handsome testimonial, especially remembering "his services in distributing coal at the Flood"!

I wonder what the Chief Constable of Shrewsbury would say if a tradesman in the town came to him with a complaint that a certain employé had been discovered deficient in his accounts—that four years before the employé had received £11 11s. on behalf of the firm and had forgotten to pay it over!
JOHN BULL.

To the Chief Commissioner, Canadian Offices, London.

DEAR CHIEF,—There has reached me a copy of the *Daily News*, of Nelson, British Columbia. In it I find news of the hanging of James Alak, a man who murdered his father-in-law, his mother-in-law, and his wife. "Prince Rupert, Sask., Nov. 28th," runs the dispatch. "James Alak was hanged this morning in the gaol yard for the murder of his wife, Theresa Alak, at Vanscoy, Sask., last September. The drop fell at 8.50 o'clock, and 13 minutes later Alak was dead." The imagination reels at so ghastly a horror done in British dominions, and what I take leave to say is that if Canadian murderers are kept dangling at the end of a rope 13 minutes before they die it is time the Canadian Government found a speedier and a humaner method of capital punishment. I shall certainly draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the matter.
JOHN BULL.

Lord Furness, Palmer's, Jarrow.

Informed your negotiations with Winston for carrying on Thames Ironworks. Seems rather good sign. A Furness should set Thames alight again. BULL.

Sun Yat Sen, Shanghai, China.

Have no objection Chinese Republic, but do object Chinese pork. May I contradict rumours here that first act new Government will be to encourage importation canned pigtails? BULL.

Sir Alfred Thomas.

Notice you elevated peerage to prove once again Rads. dearly love a lord. Suppose this sign of what Lloyd George would call great uplifting. BULL.

THE NEW SCHOLAR.

MASTER 1912: "Well, they might have given a fellow a clean slate to start with!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

FAREWELL TO A TROUBLOUS YEAR—THE OUTLOOK FOR 1912.

It is the fashion nowadays to expect better things from the New Year than have fallen to our lot in the departing Old Year, but these hopes and expectations are only too often disappointed. The year 1911, at all events, of which so much had been hoped, proved a period of alarums in international politics, of bank and labour troubles and monetary stringency, which latter has only just come to a close. Strangely enough, home industries have been prospering despite these drawbacks, and bid fair to retain their favourable tendency, provided the labour difficulties at present facing us are not pushed to extremes. It may be said that, apart from some great speculative coups in Omnibus and Underground stocks, Marconis, Cements and Shipping shares, which enlivened the closing weeks of the Old Year, prices of stocks and shares generally are low, while there is no speculative account to speak of open in the mining or general markets. Gilt-edged securities, including Consols, are depressed; Home Rails are still at a level promising good profits, while South African Mining shares, owing to unscrupulous "bear" attacks, are in a most tempting position. Canadian Pacifics have had their bonus of 8 dol. in rights and now stand at 241xd, and Grand Trunks are promising. But there has been of late a great deal of reckless promotion of Canadian enterprises, and I agree with the directors of the British Empire Trust in that "there are already a number of absolutely hopeless Canadian schemes floated and seeking flotation, and that investors should place money only in enterprises which are issued on the responsibility of some bank or well-established London house." I therefore emphasise the warning which I uttered the other day. Advances are being initiated in Brazilian and Mexican Rails, especially National Mexico 2nd Prefs. at 36, while Argentine Rails will doubtless follow as soon as the belated crop movement gathers strength. American Rails in a year of a Presidential election are likely to prove more than usually mercurial. Copper and Copper Mines are marking time, but Tin is remarkably strong, and amongst Nigerian Tin Mines there should be a good future for the sound properties which are suitably equipped. There are thus many opportunities for remunerative investment, while large sums have accumulated in the hands of the public. If circumstances favour a rising tendency, and encouragement is given by a lead from the great houses, the stock markets should soon burst into activity.

THE BOOM IN MISCELLANEOUS SPECIALITIES—OMNIBUS, TELEPHONES, MARCONIS, AND SHIPPING VIE WITH EACH OTHER.

The honours of late, as regards activity and strength, undoubtedly lie with the Miscellaneous market, although it is doubtful whether the public are in to the extent supposed. At any rate, my advice to readers is not to be caught in the turmoil, as apart from merits, there can be no doubt but that quotations have now reached an inordinately high level, and it invariably happens when a boom begins to peter out it is the public who get "left." There can be no two opinions about the prosperity of the *London General Omnibus Company*, but I doubt whether the quotation would have reached the present level of 197 ex 8 dividend if it were not for purchases for control, in order to bring about the desired amalgamation with the Underground Electric Railways. *Marconis* have been rushed up to 65s., which fully discounts the possibilities for the present. There is now a disposition to turn attention to some of the subsidiary companies, such as *Canadian Marconis, Marconi Marine*, and *Spanish Marconis*, which would certainly be a cheaper way of acquiring an interest in the great Marconi invention. *Telephone Deferred* are at 130, and are said to be worth 150, but so far the estimates of the award under the Government purchase scheme are all guesswork. The Bulls of shipping shares are feeding their imagination with daily rumours of amalgamations and working agreements, but it certainly requires considerable courage to buy, for instance, *P. and O. Deferred* at their record high level of 257½, and what applies to this stock is now applicable to most others of the kind. The latest rumour is one of an agreement between the P. and O. and Royal Mail respecting the Australian routes. *Otis Steels* are still rising hand-over-fist, and now stand 184½. The stock is believed to be going to 200, which would not be surprising, as it is so strongly held; but it is only a rich man's holding. In the case of *Associated Cements* it has been a matter of going back a sixteenth one day and rising an eighth the next day, the ordinary shares being now quoted at 8. They are very strongly held, and are believed to be bound for 10, but I should hesitate to recommend their purchase, except on distinct reactions. I have been interested to observe a sharp rise in *West India and Panama Telegraphs* to 3⅛, which shares have been recommended by me from 2¼ upwards. Latin-American stocks have been pushed up to a substantial extent, with the aid of excellent November statements, and I now note with interest a sharp rise in *Rio de Janeiro Trams* to 118, accompanied by hints from a usually well-informed source of an increase in the dividend shortly. *Thames Ironworks Debentures* have been put up to 73, on the report that a north-country firm was taking over control of affairs, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

THE COMING BANK DIVIDENDS.

By the time this reaches my readers the first dividends of the London banks will have been announced, but they will not, in any case, be at all sensational. The year 1911 has brought a great many troubles to the average man or firm, but our leading banks, upon the whole, must have had excellent opportunities for obtaining profits in their business of lending money or discounting bills. It is true that the average Bank Rate during the second half of 1911 was only £3 11s. 3d. per cent., as against £3 16s. 4d. for the corresponding half of 1910, but profits of upwards of £1 1s. per cent have been made on deposits, the average rate on which during the second half of 1911 was only £2 1s. 3d. The banks dealing in the provinces, moreover, will have found ample opportunities for good business, in view of the remarkable activity of industrial trade, notwithstanding political and labour troubles. Upon the whole, therefore, I should think that the dividends of a year ago will be maintained, and assuming that this will be the case, the return made by London bank shares would work out as follows:—

	Shares	Paid	Div. for Year. Per cent.	Qtns.	Yield p.c per ann. £ s. d.
	£	£			
Barclay and Co.	20	8	12½	19½	5 6 0
Capital and Counties	50	10	16	30	5 8 6
Lloyds	50	8	18½	28½	5 1 9
London and Provincial	10	5	18	20	4 11 3
London and South Western	30	20	16	71½	4 10 3
London City and Midland	60	12½	18	46½	4 27 0
London County and Westminster	20	5	20½	20½	5 0 0
London Joint Stock	100	15	10	26½	5 13 9
Martin's	20	10	8	16	5 3 3
Metropolitan	50	5	15	13½	5 11 0
National	50	10	11	22½	4 18 9
National Discount	25	5	10	8½	6 5 0
National Provcl. of England	75	10½	18	35	5 9 6
Parr's	50	10	20½	40½	5 2 9
Union Discount	10	5	12	11½	5 6 9
Union of London & Smiths	100	15½	37s. 2d. per share.	32½	5 16 0

The chief adverse point is that of the loss on Consols and other high-class securities, which the banks will doubtless have experienced, though in a more or less degree, according to the policy adopted. Some, no doubt, have cut their loss some time ago, but those who have still large blocks of *Consols* have a fresh fall to face, amounting to 2½ per cent., while *Home Railway Prior Charges* have also eased off somewhat, but *Colonial Bonds* and *Railway Stocks* have been firm. The necessary appropriations will, of course, be dealt with in different ways by the various banks. Some may draw upon the reserve fund, but most of these institutions will probably draw upon the profits. As these have in many instances been satisfactory, it is probable that dividends will generally be maintained out of profits. A few reductions, of course, may possibly be made, and to that extent the above table may have to be modified. As the banking outlook for 1912 is distinctly favourable, it is not unlikely that bank stock will appreciate in the New Year.

KAFFIRS AND RHODESIANS IN 1912.

The near future is fraught with important events, as far as the Kaffir and Rhodesian markets are concerned. I mentioned in last week's issue a number of dividends declared for the second half of 1911. While some of these were satisfactory, others were disappointing. There has since been some selling of stock thrown out by Scotch banks, and also on account of abandoned Paris options, but I should think that after a clean slate has thus been provided, the market would recover in the New Year from the past depression. Sir George Farrar will address the shareholders in the *East Rand Proprietary* on January 18th, and I fully expect that his statements will have a favourable effect upon that company, and upon the market generally. There are other important meetings coming on. The *Rhodesia Ex.* meeting, in connection with which a statement of accounts is being published, will be fraught with much importance, and

although the "Bears" have succeeded in depressing quotations to an altogether undue extent, that company owns so many important and valuable properties that, with the assistance of the *Goldfields Company*, it should enter an altogether different phase. In fact, the change will undoubtedly prove extremely beneficial to Rhodesian shares generally, and particularly to those which will now pass under the control of a progressive and yet business-like finance house, such as the *Consolidated Goldfields*. *Rhodesia Ex.* are certainly cheap at 2⅜, although the shares in some of the subsidiaries have been depressed by the ursine party, who have naturally had exceptional facilities for doing so at the fag-end of the year. It is reported that at the forthcoming meeting of the Amalgamated Props. Dr. Sauer will offer to return some 200,000 shares, taking back the interests bought from him, and that others will follow suit. The Jungle market is as yet out of the running, but copper and copper mines look more hopeful. *Tin*, almost alone, seems to maintain a very bold front at £206, and some of the tin mines will doubtless prove remarkably prosperous, but it will be necessary, especially amongst the Nigerians, to use very careful discrimination. *Mexican Gold Mines* are only fairly steady, as Paris has not supported them so much as usual. *Esperanza*, however, have taken a jump to 2, while *Mexican Mines of El Oro* remain at 7⅝, *El Oro* 23s. 6d.

THE COMING BOOM IN DIAMONDS.

My remarks under this heading in last week's issue have brought me so many enquiries concerning the shares of the Diamond Proprietary that I have no time to answer each separately. I therefore give further particulars which will probably answer my correspondents. The capital of the Diamond Proprietary Company is only £50,000, divided into 5s. shares, the present price of which is between 5s. and 6s. for the fully-paid shares. The special settlement is fixed for January 17th, after which there will doubtless be much greater activity in the shares. The property of the company is of such an area that large dividends should be earned out of claim business alone, totally irrespective of what may be discovered by the company's own work, which, I understand, is to be vigorously proceeded with. I again emphasise the fact that this is not a prospective, but an actual regular diamond producer. As I said last week, Continental operators confidently predict a speedy rise to £1 per share, and while not wishing to be over-optimistic, I see no reason why this prediction should not be fulfilled. One only has to look at Premier Diamonds, which stand at nearly £10 for the 2s. 6d. shares, to see what possibilities exist for diamond shares. Naturally there is a speculative element in an investment of this description, but I do not know of anything in the mining market at the present time which affords a finer opportunity for an investment with such possibilities as the shares of the Diamond Proprietary Mines, Limited.

BRITISH-GROWN COTTON.

Cotton growing is rapidly assuming boom-like dimensions, and importance, therefore, attaches to the issue by the Inkran Cotton Estates, Ltd. The estates are stated to have an area of about 5,000 acres on the Gold Coast, and are declared by Mr. F. A. G. Pape, F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S., and Mr. W. H. Boyle, F.R.G.S., to be particularly adapted to the cultivation of this indispensable product. It is claimed that the first cotton crop can be gathered within ten months of planting the Caravonica cotton tree, and its value can be inferred from the fact that it has never fetched less than 9d. per lb. at Liverpool, while there, as well as at Bremen and Havre, it has obtained 1s. and 1s. 3d. per lb. The capital consists of 400,000 shares of 2s. 6d. each, 200,000 of which have just been offered for subscription.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

PREPARING FOR THE BOOM.

Latest advices from the Territory are to the effect that there is a brisk demand for concessions. Mr. J. C. Hillson, the late manager of the Port Darwin branch of the Union Bank, is busily engaged in the interests of the Northern Territory Syndicate, and should possess unequalled facilities for getting hold of any good thing going. Further remarkable crushings are reported from Carter's Pine Creek properties.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

FREEHOLD INVESTMENT CONTRACTS.—P. F. (Chelsea).—If the matter is as you state, you had better instruct a solicitor.

LIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT.—J. G. S.—It is a toss-up, but it might be worth while to put up this further sum in the hope of your eventually being able to recoup at least some of your losses.

SEA SALVAGE CO.—SEAGULL.—I do not know anything about this concern, or its standing, and should hesitate to advise you to put any money into it, unless you can fully satisfy yourself with regard to its position and prospects.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—SPHINX.—If you have not yet received the money, you should, after a further application, employ a solicitor. ZELDIC.—M. E. Aylmer and Company, investment brokers and stock and share dealers, of 63, High Holborn, are, of course, outside brokers. The circulars are the usual claptrap, and the transaction would be merely a speculation, in which you can lose as easily as you can gain. These kind of people, of course, cannot guarantee you profits. HUROUGH G.—No, I do not recommend going into the dual cover operations offered by Guthrie and Gunter, of 53, Shaftesbury Avenue. These people are outside brokers, and it is not conceivable that in the ordinary order of events an outside broker could invariably make profits, or get them guaranteed by a substantial concern. You may be quite sure that if the matter was so certain, these people—who are not philanthropists—would carry out all these operations for their own account.

PROVIDENT CERTIFICATE.—J. H. (Uttoxeter).—This concern makes very stringent conditions, to which, no doubt, your attention has been drawn, and you are practically in their hands to do with as they like, either to accept the present cash surrender value or the loan. I should think it would be best to accept the surrender value, as you cannot afford to keep up your payments.

£5,000 INVESTMENT.—TRUSTEE.—The general run of gilt-edged securities do not yield more than 3⅜ per cent. per annum, such as:—India 2½ per cent. at 67⅛. West Australian 3½ per cent. at 96½; Belfast 3½ per cent. at 96; Newfoundland 3½ per cent. at 99. You can get about 4 per cent in some Home Railway Prior Charges, such as:—Great Central 4½ per cent. Debentures at 116, Chatham 4½ per cent. Debs. at 114; and Met. District Prior Lien 4 per cent. Debs. at 102.

SOUTH AFRICANS.—X. Y. Z. (Yorkshire).—(1) My views with regard to Charter were based on information obtained from usually well-informed quarters. That the same have not so far been fulfilled must be attributed to the general condition of the Rhodesian market. Hold your shares for a recovery, by all means. (2) I am not particularly in favour of these shares, but after the heavy fall it would hardly be advisable to sell now.

LEICESTER COMPANY.—CAUTIOUS.—I am sorry I cannot help you in this matter, and you must make your inquiries locally. You are quite right to act with caution, as hitherto the experience of people with such companies has usually been very disappointing.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—M. J. (Barmande Caste).—The fact that you have paid in more than you can get out is outside the mark. An insurance company has to average. But it would appear from your statement that the policy is illegal, and that the premiums might be recovered. E. H. (Fulham).—If you can prove fraud you can recover. L. J. E. (Redditch).—Assuming the facts to be provable, we think you can recover the premiums paid.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—F. G. B. (Broadwater).—It is a young Company. We know nothing against it.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—IRISH BULL (Bootle).—We should transfer.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—H. H. (Cobalt, Ont.).—The policy would seem to be illegal, but if you have ceased paying since July, 1910, your question is academic, seeing that the policy has lapsed long ago. G. T. (Hamilton).—The policies appear to be quite legal, and assignment would secure them to you. G. A. K. (Keighley).—There is nothing in your letter to suggest that your policy is not a legal one, and if you allow it to lapse you part with all interest in it. You should write to headquarters and try to come to an arrangement.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—H. T. S. (Southampton).—You are hasty. If the enquiry has been sent it will in due course be dealt with. M. A. B. (Manchester).—If the assured signed the proposal form you may continue to pay. FERRYSIDE (Carmarthen).—Sue in the County Court and charge fraud. T. L. (Teignmouth).—You may get paid at death. J. L. (Ilfracombe).—The policies are worthless, but you may recover the premiums in the County Court on proving the fraud. INVESTIGATOR (Manchester).—Sue for the premiums if assured did not sign. W. P. (Birchington).—The policy is legal for what it is worth. E. E. (Portsmouth).—The policies are illegal and the premiums recoverable. H. S. (Brixton Hill).—You must consult a solicitor. W. T. S. (Plymouth).—The facts are insufficient to enable us to advise. HAY HEM (Newport).—If your father did not sign the proposal form the money is recoverable. The other policies are legal. J. W. (Stowbridge).—You are a victim. Apply for a surrender value and cut your loss. W. H. M. (Manchester).—The policy seems to be in order. W. H. N. (Hythe).—Sue the Company in the County Court. J. G. (Dover).—The policies seem to be illegal. If you could prove fraud the premiums are recoverable. E. J. (Lostwithiel).—Sue in the County Court and recover premiums. AUSTRIAN (Selhurst).—You must take what they offer. W. E. (Pontygwith).—The proposal forms were forged and you could recover the premiums. W. G. P. (Axminster).—The premiums are clearly recoverable. J. F. (Bow).—Yes, get the Company to promise to pay you. F. T. (Scourier).—The premiums are probably recoverable if you sue in London. H. (Fenny Stratford).—The policies are, we think, illegal, and if you could prove fraud you could recover.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

By Our Tame Phrenologist.

[We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

SIR EDWARD GREY.

Good morning, sir; a Happy New Year to you! Don't trouble, sir; there is not the slightest need to tell me why you have called. With the far-seeing eye of a statesman you can discern foreign complications ahead which will tax your abilities to the utmost this year, and you are anxious to know whether your mental equipment justifies your retaining the Foreign Secretaryship. Be seated.

The most conspicuous feature of your head is this projection just above the ear—the site of the faculty of *Secretiveness*. It is an organ no Foreign Secretary should be without, but I venture to express the opinion that in your case the development is excessive. It preponderates over all your other propensities, dwarfing your bumps of *Combativeness* and *Constructiveness*—faculties which, in my opinion, are of equal, if not greater, importance to a man in your position.

I am of opinion that a little more candour towards the House of Commons during the German crisis of last July would have been advisable. I believe that if you had taken Parliament into your confidence a little earlier, and allowed the country at large to express its opinion of Germany's machinations, our friend the enemy would either have climbed down very much more quickly, or war would have been precipitated. And as war with Germany is bound to come sooner or later, surely it would have been better to have got it over while we were in the position to give a good account of ourselves, rather than postpone the evil day indefinitely, and thereby keep the country in a constant state of uneasiness and suspense.

Your Organ of Cautiousness shows signs of Morbid Activity.

But I cannot blame you. Nature provided you with bumps, and if she was overgenerous in the matter of secretiveness that is your, and the country's, misfortune.

Turning to your SENTIMENTS, I notice that although you have a large bump of *Self-esteem*, *Love of Approbation*, which usually accompanies it, is a minus quantity. This, in my opinion, is a defect in your character. It is all very well to have a fine disregard for the approval of one's fellows, but a proper appreciation of popular applause has been a characteristic of some of our greatest men. Nelson had it, and it nourished the natural heroism of his disposition.

Your organ of *Cautiousness* shows signs of morbid activity. It leads you to be almost, if not quite, as careful to avoid treading on the obtrusive toes of the great Powers as you are studious to uphold British imperial interests. This attribute towards the nations, when carried to an extreme, is liable to give them an impression of British pusillanimity which is not justified, and consequently to give rise to international complications which a more bull-dog front would prevent.

All things considered, sir, I am of the opinion that there are many services you could render the State more profitably than acting as Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In your position we need a man with some of the imagination of a Disraeli and a great deal of the resolution of a Pitt.

Let me, therefore, suggest to you that when the next Cabinet shuffle takes place, you apply for a position better suited to your talents.

NO MORE WRINKLES

BEAUTIFUL BUST.

Superfluous Hair Vanishes Like Magic by a New Discovery.

Pimples and Blackheads Removed For Ever.

Let this woman send you free everything she agrees, and beautify your face and form quickly.

SHE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL OF 18.

This clever woman has not a wrinkle upon her face; she has perfected a marvellous simple method which brought about a wonderful change in her face in a single night. For removing wrinkles and developing the bust, her method is truly wonderfully rapid.

She made herself the woman she is to-day, and brought about the wonderful change in her appearance in a secret and pleasant manner. Her complexion is as clear and fair as that of a child. She turned her scraggy figure into a beautiful bust and well developed form. She had thin, scraggy eyelashes and eyebrows, which could scarcely be seen, and she made them long, thick and beautiful by her own methods, and removed every pimple from her face almost in a single night.

You can imagine her joy when, by her own simple discovery, she removed every wrinkle from her face, and developed her thin neck and form to beautiful proportions.

No poisonous drugs are taken into the stomach; no common massage, no harmful plasters, no worthless creams. She accomplishes these things through Nature's way, which is sure and lasting. It is simply astonishing the hundreds of women who write in regarding the wonderful results from this new beauty treatment, which is beautifying their face and form after beauty doctors and other methods have failed.

The valuable new beauty book which Miss Ellison is sending free to thousands of women is certainly a blessing to womankind, as it makes known her methods of beautifying the face and form of unattractive women. It is written in a wonderfully fascinating style and contains startling pictures of women which show what may be accomplished by her secret methods.

Readers should write her at once, and she will send you absolutely free all she agrees, and will show our readers how to remove wrinkles IN EIGHT HOURS; HOW TO DEVELOP THE BUST; HOW TO MAKE LONG THICK EYELASHES AND EYEBROWS; HOW TO REMOVE SUPERFLUOUS HAIR; HOW TO REMOVE BLACKHEADS AND PIMPLES; HOW TO REMOVE DOUBLE CHIN AND CURE OBESITY, AND HOW TO GROW THICK AND ABUNDANT HAIR.

Simply enclose 1d. stamp and address your letter to Evelyn Ellison, Dept. 225, Evelyn House Oxford Street, London, W., and don't send any money, because particulars are free, as this charming woman is doing her utmost to benefit girls and women in need of secret information, which will add to their beauty and make life sweeter and lovelier in every way.

Money-Making

FOR

'JOHN BULL' READERS.

EVERY man and woman who reads this journal is naturally anxious to make money and become independent in life. Some people find the task quite easy, whilst others have met with many disappointments by their failure to grasp the opportunity at the right moment. To the latter our system would especially appeal, embracing as it does the vital principles of successful money-making; It places the man of small means on an equality with the Capitalist, so that everyone has an equal chance in the race for wealth; It brings unlimited profit in return for a small outlay without further liability, and has proved the means of substantial pecuniary gain to the thousands of grateful clients who have shared in the colossal sum of

Over Half-a-Million Pounds Sterling

£500,000

The

National Share Exchange

cordially invites you to test for yourself the reliability of a system that has undoubtedly

MADE HISTORY IN FINANCE.

The people who have already received a Share of this great distribution of profits are more or less in the same station of life as yourself, whose position makes it necessary that they should limit their liability. They did exactly what you are asked to do—filled in a Coupon similar to the one given below, and found that it led to very happy results. There is no reason why you should not accept the

Opportunity that leads to Wealth.

We give you the opportunity. Accept it without delay. It may bring big results from a small beginning. It is certainly worth trying. Start to-day by filling in the Coupon and learn how you may join the ranks of the successful.

All cheques paid to Clients can be inspected at our offices.

FILL IN THIS.

To the Secretary,
The National Share Exchange, 61. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," and other literature, which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay away over half-a-million pounds to clients.

J.B. 6-1-12

Name _____
(State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss or Title.)

Address in Full _____

Date _____ (Please write distinctly).

(This and all our advertisements are copyright.)

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

[*It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men upon both sides.*]

New Year Resolutions.

Having ventured to ask a number of celebrities what New Year resolutions they have made, we have received, amongst others, the following replies:—

From Mr. Asquith:—I have resolved to give a perfectly plain and unambiguous answer to all questions addressed to me in Parliament. As I contemplate retiring from the House of Commons at an early date, I hope to be able to stick to my resolution.

Mr. Bonar Law writes:—I have made a solemn vow to convert my party to Business principles, both as regards policy and methods, for I fully realise that the Business programme is the only constructive policy strong enough to withstand the wave of bureaucratic socialism that, in the specious guise of social reform, is threatening to engulf the country.

Mr. Lloyd George has made some extravagant vows. He says:—I have made several resolutions: first, always to give the soft answer that turneth away wrath; second, to studiously avoid stirring up class hatred when speaking in public; third, to credit my political opponents with a certain amount of unselfishness and sincerity; and, lastly, to get my hair cut. I hope I shall be able to keep these resolves, but I am afraid not.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain has pledged himself as follows:—I have vowed to eradicate from my mind all feeling against Walter Long for having competed with me for the Leadership of the Unionist party, which resulted in the election of Bonar Law to that enviable position.

Mr. Walter Long, strange to say, has made a similar vow. Says he:—I have made a firm resolution to suppress the natural annoyance that I feel on account of Austen Chamberlain having run a dead-heat with me for the Unionist Leadership, which enabled Bonar Law to win by a short head.

Miss Marie Corelli, always so ready to enter into biographical details, writes:—The New Year resolution I have formed will surprise my innumerable readers. I have vowed to invent no more religions. I shall continue to write books, because it is a duty that I owe to the public—and to my publishers. But henceforward I shall refrain from introducing into them novel religious theories, having already evolved nearly a dozen from the mysterious essence of my transcendent genius.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier is refreshingly candid. He says:—I have vowed not to publish any more footling rot about my beard.

The Rev. F. B. Meyer seems at last to have seen the error of his ways. He writes:—I have resolved to abstain during the ensuing twelve months from nosing about in music halls for imagined immorality. I have resolved to interfere no more with the harmless legitimate pleasures of the people. I have resolved never again to write a pamphlet likely to arouse prurient curiosity in the minds of children. And I have resolved to confine my activities to their proper sphere, the pulpit.

The Rev. Alfred Newns also seems to be smitten with feelings of contrition. He wastes no words:—I have vowed to leave the policing of the streets of London to the Force, and never again to cause the arrest of innocent respectable women on vile and unfounded suspicion.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw dishes up an old joke, as usual. He says:—I have made a firm resolution to make no resolutions.

Mr. Bart Kennedy cannot get rid of his bad old habits:—New Year resolutions. Resolutions. Resolutions for the New Year. The New Year. Resolutions. I shall not make nny. Any resolutions. Resolutions. For the New Year. Not any. None.

AN OPEN LETTER TO
The Right Hon. D. LLOYD GEORGE,
ON THE CAUSES OF
STRIKES AND BANK FAILURES.
By ARTHUR KITSON. Small Crown 8vo. 6d.
J. M. DENT & SONS, LTD., Bedford St., London, W.C.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Thys
Cinerarie Urn
Contaynes ye afhes
Of
Charles Hallam Elton Brookfield;
Ye son of a clergymanne.
Born
Anno Domini 1857,
Hee was educated atte Weftminfter
And
Trinitie College, Cambridge.
Hys father,
Faylynge to induce hym to enter
Ye Churche,
Went to ye oppofite extreme
And endeavoured
To make of hym
A Barrifter.
Butte,
Although hee entered ye Inner Temple
And ate sundrie dinners,
Hee was never called to ye Bar;
For,
Havynge succumbed to ye fafinacion of ye Stage;
Hee cafte afide ye muftie tomes
Of ye Law,
And went on ye boardes wyth
Ye Haymarket Companie,
Anno Domini 1879,
Struttynge about behynde ye footlyghtes
Wyth ye Bancrofts until
Anno Domini 1885.
Havynge thus learned stage-craft
Atte fyrft hande,
Hee next sette aboute writynge plaies,
Producynge plaies,
And,
Adaptynge naughtie plaies from ye French.
Amongft ye latter was
A verie saucie comedy called
Dear Old Charlie,
Whyche shocked ye modeftie of some people
To thatte degree
Thatte
They went to ye theatre to see itt
Several tymes,
Soe as to make sure
Thatte theyre sufceptibilities
Were notte offended wythouten reafon.
Havynge bye thys tyme
Eearned ye reputacion of beynge
Ye wittieft manne aboute towne,
And ye risquieft playwrighte,
Hee,
Anno Domini 1911,
Was appoynted
Afsiftant Reader of Plaies
Wyth Mr. Redford,
Whoo full soone afterwardes
Resigned
(Ye whyche was notte surprizynge)
And lefte
Ye deceased
Sole censor of plaies
Under ye Lorde Chamberlain.
Thus was enacted
Ye greateft joak
Of
Anno Domini 1911.

Stranger, reftrayne your scaldynge teares;
Though dear olde Charlie here abydes,
Whofe plaies, mayhap, have wonne your cheers;
And made you holde your achynge sydes;
Hee's gone, butte one immortal jest
Will flourish till ye end of daies,
To wit, thatte hee should chofen bee
To cenfor other people's plaies.

TURN YOUR THOUGHTS INTO GOLD

£52-10-0

For Your Thoughts.

50 GUINEAS

for a Short Phrase descriptive of

MURATTI'S NEB-KA No. 2 CIGARETTES.

The proprietors want a new phrase for this cigarette—something concise, catchy and descriptive to be used as an advertisement—such as their well-known phrase "For refined tastes"—and they are willing to pay well for it. Ladies as well as Gentlemen are eligible.

Just a few words that may strike you any time. Jot them down and send them in before February 15th, 1912, to "Neb-ka," Muratti's West End Depot, 28, Piccadilly, London, W. For each Phrase sent enclose a packer's ticket and picture card taken from a Neb-ka No 2 Cigarette tin.

The prizes to be awarded are:—

1st prize 50 guineas		—£52 10 0
10 prizes of £2 2 0 each		—£21 0 0
10 prizes of £1 1 0 each		—£10 10 0

and 50 consolation prizes of a 100 box of Neb-ka Cigarettes each.

Picture Cards without the packer's ticket are not eligible.

Entries may reach Muratti's at any time before February 15th, 1912, when the competition closes.

The decision of the Selection Committee, presided over by Mr. A. E. O. Sperring, Editor of the *Cigar and Tobacco World*, is final, and competitors enter on this distinct understanding.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in Muratti's advertisement in the *Daily Mail*, March 1st, 1912, and will be the only method of notification.

Muratti's NEB-KA Cigarettes

are manufactured exclusively of the Finest Selected Turkish Tobacco. Their unequalled quality makes them absolutely the greatest cigarette value in the world.

Sold in Boxes of 10 6½d, 20 1/1, 50 2/6, 100 5/-, by all Tobacconists.

Each box contains packer's tickets and picture card.

What shall we have today? Happy thought!

Bird's Custard Hot

with stewed prunes

You prepare the Bird's Custard in the usual way and serve at once while Hot. This makes a rich cream sauce, which, poured over hot stewed prunes, forms a delicious dish for cold days.

With this Bird's Custard Sauce, the plainest pudding is transformed into a delightful treat.

SALE OF IRISH LINENS

During JANUARY Robinson & Cleaver offer all factory accumulations at very low prices.

LINEN DAMASK TABLE-CLOTHS. 2 by 2½ yards, 2/3 and 2/3 each. 2 by 3 yards, 3/11 and 11/3 each.

NAPKINS. 24 ins., 2/6, 11/6 dozen.

LINEN SHEETS, hemmed for use, 2 by 3 yards, offered at 13/6 pair.

TEA-CLOTHS, hand-embroidered, 26 by 26 ins., 2/9, 5/11, 8/6 each.

LINEN BEDSPREADS, 16/6 each.

LINEN TOWELS, hemstitched, heavy Huckaback, assorted patterns, 1,400 offered at 11/6 and 14/3 per dozen.

LINEN PILLOW CASES, 20 by 30 ins., hemstitched. For this quality, undoubted bargains at 4/2 and 4/11 pair.

HANDKERCHIEFS. — Surplus stock from Christmas trade, at exceptionally low prices.

SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED SALE LIST POST FREE.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER, Ltd.,
44E, Donegall Place, BELFAST.
LONDON. LIVERPOOL.

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF QUALITY.

"Black & White" Whisky

Jas. Buchanan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow & London.

SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCES.

By Our Spiritualist Reporter.

CHARLES DICKENS.

[*We have added to our staff a Special Spiritualist Reporter, who each week will obtain and recount the opinions on questions of topical interest of some illustrious inhabitant of the astral plane.*]

The first words that the spirit of Dickens uttered were characteristic.

"Wery glad to see you, indeed, and hope our acquaintance may be a long 'un, as the gen'l'm'n said to the fi' pun' note."

I reciprocated the genial greeting, and at once broached the most vital question of the day, the Insurance Act.

"What a world of gammon and spinnage it is, though, ain't it?" said Dickens, laughing quietly.

"It is no laughing matter," I protested. "Although the Bill has passed, the agitation against it has not subsided. The question is, what is to be done?"

"Run a moist pen through everything, and start afresh."

"Would it were possible," I replied. "But it is not."

"Then there's some credit in being jolly," chuckled Dickens. "It's over, and can't be helped, and that's one consolation, as they always says in Turkey."

"I know their Tricks and their Manners."

"I'm afraid the country does not look at it like that," I said. "The doctors and the domestic servants are seething with discontent. How will it end?"

"Something will come of it," declared Dickens with mock solemnity. "I hope it mayn't be human gore."

"You seem to treat these important political questions very lightly," I said, a little severely.

"I am sufficiently behind the scenes to know the worth of political life," replied Dickens. "I am quite an infidel about it, and shall never be converted."

"Then you look upon politicians as——" I began.

"The dodgerest of the dodgers," said Dickens promptly. "I know their tricks and their manners."

"Then don't you think it is a very serious thing that the destinies of the country should be in the hands of people of that sort?" I demanded.

"What is the odds," replied Dickens, "so long as the fire of souls is kindled at the taper of conwiviality, and the wing of friendship never moults a feather?"

"But you must admit that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, is——"

"A dem'd damp, moist, unpleasant body," cried Dickens, "turning an immense pecuniary mangle."

"Come, come," I remonstrated. "Let us be serious for a moment."

"Let us be moral. Let us contemplate existence," mocked Dickens, in high glee.

"There is Lloyd George," I said, determined to stick to my theme.

"He'd make a lovely corpse," commented Dickens.

"He gets up in the House of Commons——" I continued doggedly.

"With affection beaming in one eye and calculation shining out of the other," added Dickens, making the medium shake with his laughter.

Nothing is so infectious as a hearty guffaw. I caught it. When I recovered I found the medium wide awake and laughing.

"Ere, guv'nor," he said, "wotter we larfin' at?"

I did not attempt to explain.

PUBLIC TEST OF NEW DEAFNESS CURE.

99 OUT OF 100 ALREADY MADE TO HEAR AGAIN.

5,000 EACH DEAF MEN AND WOMEN TO BE ALLOWED FREE TRIAL OF THE NEW CURE.

A severe public test is to be made of a new cure for deafness. This remedy, recently discovered by a famous doctor, has already cured 99 out of every 100 cases undertaken, and now 5,000 deaf men and 5,000 deaf women are to be allowed Free Trial treatments to further demonstrate its efficacy.

The doctor-discoverer has given the entire control of his new treatment to an Institute of Chemists. The only stipulation he made when handing over his valuable remedy was that:—

Every man or woman who is deaf or suffering from any defect of hearing should be treated for ten days free of charge.

To enable the Institute to determine those entitled to this free treatment, he carefully prepared a list of questions covering the various defects of hearing. Any person whose answer to one or more of these questions is "Yes" is entitled to the free treatment.

Do you suffer from earache?.....
Is there any discharge from your ear?.....
Do you experience that "stuffed up" feeling?.....
Is there any buzzing, ringing, hissing, crashing, or roaring noise?.....
Do you lose occasional words in conversation?.....
Are you deaf in one ear or both?.....
Do you fail to hear a watch tick?.....
Is the wax dry or scaly?.....
Do you suffer from catarrh of the nose or throat?.....
Have you discharge or stuffiness of the nose?.....
Dropping of phlegm into your throat?.....
Is your voice husky?.....
Do you get frequent colds?.....
Is there anything at all wrong with either your hearing or your breathing?.....
Age..... Occupation .....

(FULL NAME AND ADDRESS TO BE SENT ON SEPARATE SHEET.)

This new "Aerial Medication" treatment is more successful than anything known before as a remedy for all forms of ear and head affections, including Nasal Catarrh, Head Noises, and Hearing Difficulties of every description.

The severest cases of deafness are cured, and men and women who have not been able to hear for years can now again hear the slightest sounds after undergoing treatment.

Any number of examples could be cited to show how wonderfully effective this "Aerial Medication" treatment is. The following letter from a well-known Bournemouth lady is typical of the many received in every post from all parts of the United Kingdom. This lady writes:—

"For over four years I suffered from almost total deafness. I could hear no ordinary conversation, never went out alone, and altogether I had a most miserable time. Now I can hear as well (or better) than the average man or woman. For this I thank you and your system of 'Aerial Medication.' I tried dozens of remedies, but could not even get temporary relief from deafness. I shall be happy to recommend 'Aerial Medication' whenever I meet anyone who is troubled by deafness or bad hearing."

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CURE YOUR DEAFNESS OR IMPROVE YOUR HEARING FREE.

Look over the list of questions again. If they pertain to you, this is your opportunity to eradicate, free of charge, every defect of hearing.

Deafness, Huskiness, Occasional Lapses of Hearing can all be made things of the past if you send now for the free "Aerial Medication" treatment.

To get this free treatment write your answers to the above questions on the blank lines provided.

Enclose with 6d. (to pay cost of package and postage of parcel) a separate sheet giving full name and address, and post to the address given below.

In this way you can, without cost or effort, prove to yourself the efficacy of this wonderful new "Aerial Medication" treatment.

The complete treatment will be sent you on loan by return. Full directions will accompany it.

YOU CAN BEGIN ITS USE WITHIN 48 HOURS FROM NOW.

Send now, and within 48 hours you can begin using the treatment, and within a few days you will be well on the way to complete recovery.
Earache and all inflammatory disorders will disappear.
Head Noises and "Stuffiness" will gradually subside.
Deposits will be broken up.
The Hearing will improve daily, and Deafness will become a thing of the past.
The Voice will become clear instead of husky, and the Breathing will become easier.
Catarrh of the Ears, Nose, and Throat will be less and ever less troublesome as the treatment is continued.
You will have no more annoying lapses of hearing.
Discharge from the ears will cease.
Take this opportunity to free yourself of every form of ear trouble or hearing defect.
Write at once for the free test outfit. Enclose 6d. stamps to cover packing and postage on the parcel.
Address your letter of application (with filled in Question and Answer Form) to:—

The Aerial Medication Institute,
211, Victoria House, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.

A GREAT FURNITURE SALE.

A West-End Firm's Remarkable Series of Bargains obtainable Without Need to Pay Cash in Full.

A Splendid Range of Furniture Bargains at Less than Cost Price.

The real furnishing opportunity of the season has arrived with the announcement that a famous West-End house of furnishers are offering furniture bargains at 25 per cent., and in some cases a higher percentage, below usual prices, and still offer to all the splendid advantages of their unique system of payments out of income.

How many readers of JOHN BULL have enjoyed bargain shopping under these conditions where there is only need to pay down a portion, a very small portion, of the cost price in order to secure the bargain already greatly reduced in price?

If you have not enjoyed this advantage before, Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, of 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., now present it to you.

For the purpose of this great sale they have ruthlessly cut prices in practically every department, and only a visitor can appreciate how thoroughly this has been done. We can convey some idea of the bargains obtainable without need to pay the whole amount of the cost price of the furniture in full by the following

EXCEPTIONAL BARGAINS.

GENUINE AXMINSTER

Carpets in numerous sizes, also per yard. One shilling less than usual cost price.

Long-wearing, rich-patterned Linoleum, suitable for practically every room in the house, sixpence per square yard below cost.

Beautifully carved solid oak Sideboard, plate glass fitments, two cupboards.

Usual price £6 15s. SALE PRICE Five Guineas.

Handsome Bureau Bookcase, finely polished rosewood, inlaid design.

Usual Price £8 5s. SALE PRICE £7 10s.

These are just a few of the remarkable bargains that you may at once snap up, if you are wise enough to pay an early visit to the Wolfe and Hollander showrooms. Whether you desire to purchase or not you should certainly make a special effort to attend their great sale so that you may learn what really beautiful furniture is now obtainable in London under a system that involves no heavy immediate expense.

A look round your home will surely convince you that there are several articles which could well be discarded and replaced. Maybe it is a new bedstead you seek, or an ottoman, an overmantel, a sideboard, or a luxurious armchair, or perhaps you are thinking of entirely re-furnishing.

RUTHLESS CUTTING IN PRICES.

Now is the best opportunity you will ever have, for the directors of Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, W.C., desiring to make a clean sweep of their present handsome stock of furniture, in order to make room for new articles, have marked every article in their extensive showrooms at sacrificial figures.

The great furniture sale has now commenced, and if you are desirous of securing the very best of the numerous bargains you are advised to call at the very earliest possible moment—to-day, if possible.

We have referred to the Wolfe and Hollander system of payments out of income, which is now the model system, being widely adopted by those who wish to share the huge business the firm monopolise. It may be described in one paragraph, so that you will see that even at sale prices you have further exceptional advantages of deferring payment if desired.

NO NEED FOR HEAVY PAYMENTS.

You choose £100 worth of furniture cash, to defer payment you simply add five per cent. to your total cost, making £105, your first is 10 per cent., or 2/- in the £, making £10 10s., and further payments are arranged exactly to suit your convenience. In the same way £50 worth of furniture costs £52 10s., first payment £5 5s.; £20 costs £21, first payment £2 2s. That is all—the system is simplicity itself and you may at once visit the showrooms and secure your bargains on these terms.

If you cannot call at once, send a letter stating what particular article or articles you are on the look out for (or 'phone your requirements), when a letter will be sent you giving details of special bargains that meet your requirements, and in every case applicants will receive, gratis and post paid, a copy of Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander's splendid fully illustrated furniture book. To secure this letter it is only necessary to send your name and address to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C.

Remember, for the next few days the greatest sale of furniture London has ever seen is being conducted at the address given above. Bus, tram or tube will take you close to the firm's palatial premises. Remember, also, you can secure your bargains at once without the need for full immediate outlay. The only thing to do is call early or write, stating your requirements.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

"Old Drury" on Boxing Night is a magnificent sight! This year, or rather, last year—for to-day we are in 1912—there was the buzz of more than usual excitement, for the pantomime was to be a real fairy tale, and not one of the incomprehensible *olla podridas* from which you might easily cut any part and never miss it. Well, the idea has worked out wonderfully, the result is a perfectly coherent story, and to hear the shrieks of the little ones in front is to know how admirably the enchanting fancy named "Hop O' My Thumb" is told. Indeed, George R. Sims, Arthur Collins, and Frank Dix have provided an altogether perfect production at the Lane, and many a happy dream will the children have about the lovely fairies who flutter from the clouds and in clear bell-like voices give prophetic utterance of events to follow. "The Garden of Statues" is an exquisite thought. Hilario wanders down the white figured pathway, sprinkling as he does so the stone statues with magic dew from a branch he carries. Instantly the snow white figures begin to move, they dance, they make merry, and the garlands and wreaths they hold turn into rose-blossoms, and the curtain falls on a singularly charming bouquet of pink and white flowers. Again, nothing could be prettier than tiny Miss Renée Mayer as "Hop O' My Thumb." The child is a small genius, her dancing a delight to everyone. Mr. Frederick Ross is particularly well suited to "The Ogre," his superb vocal organ being just what is required for this grim monster. As for George Graves, he is too funny for speech, and dries nearly everybody up whenever he is on the stage. Miss Violet Loraine cuts a fine figure as Hilario, the principal boy, and Miss Daisy Dormer is a dainty Zaza. Fanny Brough is inimitable as the Baroness Chicot—imagine Fanny in "panties," oh, she does look quaint—and, of course, Barry Lupino's antics are extraordinary. The tableaux at the end of the pantomine are faultless in their pathetic beauty, and nobody should miss them, for they are one of the sweetest features in the whole entertainment. When I tell you that the music is arranged by that popular director, Jimmy Glover, you will understand how skilfully it has been dealt with, and how super-excellent is the result. "Hop O' My Thumb" is certain to be relished by everyone. It is many a long year since so splendid an all-round pantomime has been seen at Drury Lane. Bravo George R. Sims, Frank Dix, and Arthur Collins. What a brilliant triumvirate!

OUR "BISCUIT" PRIZES.

A SPLENDID EDUCATIONAL EXERCISE FOR CHILDREN.

We have decided to award a Prize of 10s. for the cleverest explanation of ANY THREE *of the current week's "Biscuits"—that is to say, the smartest reason why the "Biscuits" were awarded. We shall also give four consolation prizes of 5s. each. Any child of a* John Bull *reader—whether boy or girl, up to fourteen years of age—may enter. Answers must be short and to the point, and written clearly, and each set of three must be accompanied by the coupon which will be found printed below. Competitors may make as many attempts as they like, providing a coupon is attached to each set of answers. Each "Biscuit" is numbered, so that all competitors have to do is to number their replies to correspond with the "Biscuits" selected. The age of the competitor will be taken into consideration, so that every child has an equal opportunity of winning. Answers must be received, in envelopes marked in left hand corner "Biscuit," not later than the first post on Thursday morning, and the result will be announced in our next issue.*

First Prize, 21s., to Amy Marsh, "The Bungalow," Laundry Road, Southampton.

Second Prize, 10s. 6d., to Beatrice L. Mycock, 5, Pennine View, Heyrod, Stalybridge.

Prizes of 5s. each to Jacques Cohen, 63, Petherton Road, Highbury, N.; C. Goulson, Gelston, Grantham; G. Jarman, 3, Trent Villas, Morton; Ena Goldberg, 39, Burns Street, Nottingham; Rhodwen Jones, 9, Fforchnoel Row, Godreaman, Aberdare; Mildred Clarke, Prospect House, Wellington, Salop; Mary Codd, 37, Sidney Street, Grimsby; C. McEvoy, 11, King Street, Hulme, Manchester; Clara Hartley, 20, Penford Street, Camberwell; Godfrey Price, Malamoff House, Brecon Road, Abergavenny

BISCUIT PRIZE COUPON.

Competitor's Name _____

Address _____

_____

Age _____

8-1-12.

AN ARTIST'S WIFE

Middle Age Dangers: Debility—

Safely past the *most dangerous years* of womanhood, *entirely* through employing the aid of Phosferine, is Mrs. Field, after three years of such suffering as had made her forget what it meant to be well! Overtaken by middle age dangers just when she had *no reserve of vitality* to struggle through those years of secret dread, of brain and body distresses, Mrs. Field collapsed with debility and weakness, and when doctors failed to remedy her dangerous condition Phosferine was hurriedly tried. With the first dose of Phosferine the disastrous feebleness and excessive nervousness became less distressing, until the inrush of energy completely banished all Mrs. Field's nervous disorders, and restored her to her family the bright, cheerful, active woman she now is. This proof of the substantial and lasting benefit derived from Phosferine assures all women that middle age dangers need not leave them with permanent ill-health.

Safely Overcome:

Mr. F. C. Field, 159, Balham Hill, Balham, S.W., writes:—"I sincerely believe that Phosferine has been the means of saving my wife's life. She had reached *the critical age* which often proves so dangerous to many, and for three years did not know what a day's good health meant. Her condition caused me the gravest anxiety, for she was so enfeebled that I doubted of her recovery; there appeared *no reserve of vitality* to help her through. Debility, Lassitude, Nervousness, Indigestion, Depression, Sleeplessness were included with other troubles that commonly occur at change of life. She tried advertised medicines, attended doctors and hospitals, without the slightest effect, and became utterly prostrated and despondent. She was advised by a friend to try Phosferine. Now, this is the result of a course of Phosferine: Entirely recovered from all effects of her late state of health; bright and cheerful; sleeps well and enjoys her food; been shopping and taking walks!"—August 5, 1911.

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	HYSTERIA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	SLEEPLESSNESS
BRAIN-FAG	PREMATURE DECAY	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	INFLUENZA	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANÆMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Command to

The Royal Family
H.I.M. The Empress of Russia
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Greece
H.M. the King of Spain
The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

Marie Corelli

"The Great Unrest"

A Slashing Arraignment of Church, State and Society—An Amazing and Brilliant Article by

Marie Corelli

One of the Twelve Splendid Features in

Nash's Magazine

6d Net. == *for* January ==

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

SCOTTISH Residents are asked to note that the attitude of the Law Officers of their country in regard t such contests debars them from participating in our great Football Competition. We much regret this prohibition and will endeavour to compensate in some other way our friends over the border.

R. H. D. (Shoreditch).—Mr. Bottomley, as President of the League, always wears the Presidential Badge on state occasions.

R. O. (Bradford).—The subject of the Reverend F. P. Farrar's misconduct is too painful for discussion.

W. R. E. (Herne Hill).—The term "translated" is correct when speaking of the removal of a bishop from one diocese to another.

J. B. (London, W.C.) gibes at us for having printed the sentence "for keeping chemicals out of site" in "Fried Fish Shop Waiter's" article. J. B. is a sight too clever. We intentionally refrained from correcting our contributor's spelling, for reasons obvious to every reader but J. B.—who must drop those sacred initials.

R. E. (Alberta) and F. H. (Southampton).—The brilliant phrase which made Mr. Winston Churchill's reputation was "terminological inexactitude." We trust we are now printing the mystic words for the last time.

R. R. (Toronto).—We note that the Rev. F. B. Meyer recently said "The Press and I have become close friends of late." We are sorry for the Press.

M. H. (London, S.E.) says that in Canada "the Capitalists and Land sharks are flooding the country with their victims, to keep the wages on the down-grade." How many more times must we say "Canadian emigrants, beware!"

W. C. (Bristol).—Although the lady boasts a foreign title, is middle-aged, crowned with golden hair, jewelled, and thickly painted, she, even with all this against her, may yet be quite good. But she is certainly not generous if she is prepared to pay a lady assistant companion with musical abilities and knowledge of foreign languages only £15 a year—and "sleep out."

L. M. B. (Bolton).—We cannot answer inquiries by post. We always give our correspondents the best possible advice concerning Continental lotteries and sweepstakes, and that is, have nothing to do with them unless you are prepared to lose your money.

A. G. (Isle of Man).—Thanks for cuttings. You touch on many topics, and our space is limited; but we must find room to say that we agree that the existing laws as affecting gambling are a farrago of nonsense. Gambling will never be stopped by prohibitive legislation.

"TAXPAYER" (Barnes).—Sorry you have been "done" by a dishonest police pensioner. Apparently, when he retired from the force he forgot to bring his integrity away with him. *The Lay Lawyer* will be able to tell you all about Garnishee Orders.

A TOTTENHAM RATEPAYER asks why the Labour Exchange in his parish pays £300 a year rent when premises at £50 or £60 a year would have been quite suitable. We give it up.

A. F. (Glasgow).—We daresay Dr. Barnardo's Homes are carried on as well as most charities of that kind, although we have had occasion to expose the unhappy plight of certain Barnardo children in Canada. As for the lady who is begging for subscriptions, and will not let you "get a word in edgeways," we, alas! have met many like her.

"MUSICUS" (Derby) wants to know which is "the most Democratic and reliable newspaper in the Kingdom." JOHN BULL.

"A THINKER" (Lee, S.E.) asks us to inform him "the percentage of labour on the entire manufacture of a motor car costing £1,000." "A thinker" should not ask us to find his premisses for him.

C. B. (Pitsea) thinks it wrong to speak of "eating" one's tea. He evidently does not know that eating includes drinking. It is time he did.

"A WORKING MAN" (Bristol) has delivered himself of the following lines to Mr. Lloyd George:—

"I have heard of showers of Blessings
You are scattering full and free,
Yourself and officials refreshing;
Please let some fall upon me."

The "rare and refreshing fruit" does not seem to have reached Bristol yet.

A. T. (Levenshulme).—We know no reason why you should not wear your medals at a municipal function; nor, on the other hand, do we see any reason why you should.

J. W. P. (Heywood) sends us the report of a funeral, cut from the *Heywood Advertiser*, which states that "the entertainment took place in the family vault at the Cemetery of the Long Holme Wesleyan Church." A cold collation of "funeral baked meats," we presume.

"DISGUSTED ISLANDER" informs us that the way pigs are fed at Cowes, I. of W., is as disgusting as anything that has been printed about Chinese pork. When next we visit the I. of W. we shall eschew bacon.

"TRUTHFUL."—If, as you assert, hens' eggs are manufactured in Germany and sent to this country for consumption, it will explain the unpleasant experience we had at breakfast the other morning. Pouf!

"CONSTANT" (Weymouth).—The patent fees would amount to at least £5, covering the first four years from date of patent.

"INQUISITIVE" wants to know whether "damn" is a swear word. Unless it be prefixed by the name of the Deity, we are glad to say it is not.

C. S. (Wargrave).—We know nothing good, bad, or indifferent about the Bartitsu Institute, of New Bond Street.

H. C. B. (London, S.W.) tells us that a National Association for the Government Regulation of Licensed Houses is being formed. Surely licensed houses are already being regulated to death.

C. W. C. (Hailsham).—We recommend you to have nothing to do with the Hamburg State Lottery. The fact that it is guaranteed by the German Government does not inspire us with confidence regarding its agents.

D. D. (Aberavon).—You must apply to the Secretary of the Insurance Commissioners for a job under the Insurance Act—unless you care to write a nice letter, in Welsh, to Mr. Lloyd George.

NO NAME (Earlsfield) states that the last woman hanged at Holloway was Mrs. Dyer, in 1903. Now we will "drop" the subject.

"PATRIOT" (India).—It must be admitted that coloured men have a fascination for a certain type of white women. It is also unfortunately true that at certain seaports British widows are known to marry Chinamen. But the evil is not so appallingly widespread as your Colonial friends make out.

"THE WHITE BOY" (London).—All persons born in His Majesty's dominions, whether of British or of foreign parents, are British subjects; the children of a natural-born British father and the grandchildren of a natural-born British grandfather are British subjects, no matter where they are born.

A. N. (Alexandra) posted a sample cigar to a friend in England, but the "weed" was seized by the Customs Department of the G.P.O. Perhaps A. N.'s friend has much to be thankful for.

R. G. W. (Gravesend).—Read recent "Letter Bag" replies for information concerning Calcutta Sweepstakes.

A. M. (Cardiff).—We think that all ships flying the British flag should be manned by British sailors.

F. M. (Bristol).—Why not try Eastbourne—anywhere but Bournemouth.

J. M. (Belfast) thinks we are not consistent in our opposition to religious cant and hypocrisy, because we are not averse from a man putting a shilling on a horse, provided he can afford to lose it. At any rate, we are consistent in our inconsistency.

W. P. P. (Brixton) says: "When the clergy of all denominations are prepared to teach men how to live this life and leave the other, of which they know nothing, to take care of itself—then, and then only, will they regain some of the influence they have lost." But that is too novel. It would startle any Dean and Chapter.

W. S. (Glasgow) tells us that the Swedish newspapers have been poking great fun at the recent stuffing of the English Cabinet. We imagine that what amused the Swedes more than anything else was the appointment of Mr. Runciman to the Board of Agriculture. We understand, too, that it caused the mangold wurzels much merriment.

G. T. (Manchester).—We note that Mr. John Royle, a candidate in the recent Municipal bye-election in St. Thomas's Ward, Salford, issued a poster to the following effect:—"The latest lies about John Royle are not true." We are glad of that; but what about the earlier ones?

"AN ENGLISHMAN" (Winchmore Hill, N.) points out that, as Secretary of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, Mr. Glyn-Jones, pharmacist, and Liberal M.P. for Stepney, is of necessity a protectionist, but that he advocates Free Trade on the public platforms. Quite so; a case of Don't do as I do, but do as I tell you.

R. R. (Southport) asks us the following riddle and kindly provides the solution: "Why does the Rev. Dr. Porter, of Southport, the ardent total abstinence advocate, not take unto himself a wife?" Answer: "Because he is not able to sup Porter." He has our deepest sympathy—on both accounts.

"GADZOOKS."—Thanks for the cigar. We tried it on the sub-editor, and both are doing as well as can be expected.

W. M. (Finsbury Park, N.) says it is no use arguing with a "Sunday observance bigot." We would as soon argue with a Party hack.

S. C. B. (Hanover) asks us to say where he can obtain "a list of persons injured, etc., in cleaning windows, etc.?" There may be a list of persons injured in cleaning windows, but we doubt if any record is kept of persons et cetered in cleaning et ceteras.

J. D. (Glasgow).—Notwithstanding the self-complacent reports of the missionary societies, we know too much about missionary work in so-called heathen countries to swallow all the eulogy you send us. Besides, charity should begin at home. The money and energy that are expended in foreign missions would go far to reduce the poverty, degradation and misery that are in our midst.

S. H. B. (Exeter).—The only person who can tell you exactly what benefits domestic servants will derive from the Insurance Act is Mr. Lloyd George. *We* can't, anyway.

R. W. F. (East Ham).—We note that, according to the Clacton Advancement Association's Guide, the shores of Clacton "are laved by the North Sea, cool in summer, warm and dry in winter." This should attract thousands to Clacton. There is nothing more enjoyable than a swim in a warm, dry sea.

J. M. (Lavender Hill, S.W.), who is a local preacher, agrees with us that the question of Sunday observance is strictly a personal one, and joins in our condemnation of puritanical "kill-joys." However, he does not believe in doing unnecessary work on Sunday. Neither do we; not on any other day.

THE EDITOR thanks the numerous readers who have sent him New Year's cards and greetings. He much appreciates their kindly sentiments, which he heartily reciprocates.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

BRAININE

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, "NERVES" AND "WORRY."

Recharges the Human Battery—the Brain—with Vital Force.

Supersedes all nerve tonics.

GUARANTEED FREE FROM STRYCHNINE OR ANY OTHER POISONOUS DRUG.

What is claimed for BRAININE—a most marvellous and positive remedy for nervous complaints.

There must be many thousands of men and women to-day who feel—and feel acutely—the effect of jaded nerves; those jaded nerves which are almost inseparable from modern conditions of living, with the constant stress and strain which proves such an enormous drag on the strongest system.

It is questionable if there is a single man or woman amongst those thousands who would not enthusiastically welcome at this very moment a remedy which would immediately soothe their brains make every nerve in their bodies sound and healthy, and induce a state of complete mental ease hitherto impossible of enjoyment.

BRAININE—a Preparation which acts on the root of nervous complaints—the Brain.

Eminent physicians will tell you that one of the most prevalent and serious complaints of the twentieth century is "NERVES"—yet BRAININE is probably the first preparation which has effectively solved the question of "*How best to treat the Nerves.*"

BRAININE, unlike other so-called remedies, acts directly on the brain itself, the health condition of which is reflected in every nerve throughout the body. . . . *Actually it is a brain food*, purging the brain of the waste matter which is clogging the cells and retarding its healthy activity, and replacing in its stead sound and healthy tissue. *This action of* BRAININE *on the great nerve junction has very far-reaching results*, completely banishing mental tiredness, or, in other words, *worry, physical lassitude, insomnia*, and the many other serious complaints directly due to the nervous condition.

We can confidently recommend BRAININE to every nerve sufferer—its preparation is the result of most extensive research and many years of investigation and study of the brain by one of our most eminent physicians and nerve specialists.

Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P., after a practical test of BRAININE, says:

"You may certainly give me as a reference to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

A Leading Hospital Nurse says:—

"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE *when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my 'convalescents' take it—and are loud in its praise."*

Mr. C. writes:—"My wife has already derived great benefit from the Brainine pellets. Kindly forward me another box, by return, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d."

December, 1911.

Mr. R. writes:—"Please forward me a box of Brainine pellets. I find that they are all that you claim for them, and am, therefore, strongly recommending them to my friends."

Every nerve sufferer is urged to make a careful trial of BRAININE without one moment's unnecessary delay.

BRAININE is sold in boxes 1s. 1½d., and will be mailed post free to any address in the United Kingdom.

If you are a sufferer BRAININE is for you. Invaluable for—

Worry, Insomnia, Lassitude, Nervous Excitement, Brain-fag, Irritability, Nervous Headaches, and all nervous complaints.

If any difficulty is experienced in obtaining BRAININE from your chemist or local store, please cut out this coupon and post direct, with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2, Marsham Street, London, S.W.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full) .....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

OUR £1,000 Prize—Football Competition.

Simplicity its Charm. No Entrance Fee Whatever. £52 10s. at least must be won each week.

We have now devised something unique in Football Competitions, combining the element of simplicity with that of skill, and which, on account of these twin merits, will, we feel sure, appeal not only to the followers of our great winter game, but also to those who desire a pleasurable and profitable pastime for the long winter evenings.

Having decided to inaugurate a Football Skill Competition, our first aim was to make it such that it would be "streets ahead" of similar propositions.

That is why we make the prize double the size of anything offered by other periodicals. That is why we make the prize one of £1,000.

Moreover, £52 10s. must be won *every week* by some competitor or other. Do not run away with the idea that, because *the chief Prize is twice as large as any offered*, and the Weekly Consolation one greater than any awarded by our contemporaries, we are making it more difficult to win. In point of fact it is easier than any other hitherto offered. Let us add this one remark:

The sooner this £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

Make no mistake about that. We are not so dense as not to recognise the advertising importance of being able to announce that £1,000 has been won by a JOHN BULL reader If it is won in the very first week we shall be radiant with joy.

A knowledge of football form is, of course, a very fine thing, and accordingly we refer you to the "Football Fancies" or tips given each Thursday in this journal.

On Saturday, January 13th, the First Round Proper of the Cup Ties will be decided. In all, the following thirty-two matches will be played that day:—

Croydon Common v. Leicester Fosse; Liverpool v. Burton; Aston Villa v. Walsall; Derby County v. Newcastle United; Grove Alexandra v. Blackpool; Blackburn Rovers v. Norwich City; Swindon Town v. Sutton Junction; Northampton v. Bristol City; Luton v. Notts County; Southampton v. Coventry City; Sunderland v. Plymouth Argyle; Lincoln City v. Stockport County; Oldham Athletic v. Hull City; West Greenwich Athletic v. Tottenham Hotspur; Middlesbrough v. Sheffield Wednesday; Preston North End v. Manchester City; Birmingham v. Barnsley; Clapton Orient v. Everton; Watford or Barrow-in-Furness v. Wolverhampton Wanderers; Notts Forest v. Bradford; Brentford v. Crystal Palace; Bolton Wanderers v. Woolwich Arsenal; Bury v. Millwall; Darlington v. Brighton; Chelsea v. Sheffield United; Bristol Rovers v. Portsmouth; Southport Central v. Reading; West Ham v. Gainsborough or Tunbridge Wells Rangers; Leeds City v. Glossop; Queen's Park Rangers v. Bradford City; Fulham v. Burnley; Manchester United v. Huddersfield.

Of course, there are many weak teams drawn against strong ones, and in such cases there should be quite a large crop of goals. We simply throw that out as a hint for your guidance.

What you have to do is to say in which three matches in the First Round Proper of the Cup Competition the greatest number of goals will be scored, giving the names of the clubs scoring them, and the actual scores.

We give three examples for your guidance.

Club.	Goals.		Club	Goals.
Chelsea	3	v.	Sheffield United	2
Derby County	5	v.	Newcastle United	3
Clapton Orient	4	v.	Everton	6

If you give the above, and the results proved to be correct, you would pocket £1,000 for your skill.

Of course you must select clubs actually competing against each other on Saturday, January 13th. Next week, of course, we shall revert to the League games.

The well-known Football Expert "McW." will give useful hints in another column each week.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

No. 2. COUPON for Matches to be Played SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th.

The six opposing clubs in the First Round Proper of the Cup Competition which will total the largest number of goals between them, and the goals which each will score, will be as follows:—

Name of Club.	Goals scored.		Name of Club.	Goals scored.
.....		v.	.....	
.....		v.	.....	
.....		v.	.....	

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly," and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £52 10s. will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you may enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly."
3. £1,000 will be awarded to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £52 10s. will be given to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence, whether personal or by letter, in the matter of the conduct of this competition will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competition owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims within a week of the result.
8. All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names and addresses must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.

Mark your envelopes "Football No. 2" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than midday on Thursday, January 11th, next.

THE GREAT £2,000 "FOOTBALL FINAL" COMPETITION £2,000

On January 13th next sixty-four clubs engage in the competition proper for the Football Cup.

Of all these sixty-four only four can appear in the Semi-Finals, and only two in the Final Tie at the Crystal Palace. Only one can win the Cup.

Students of football form are asked to test their skill by filling in the particulars given on our "Skill" Coupon.

£2,000 will be given to the competitor (or competitors) whose coupon is correct in every particular.

The conditions governing our other Football Competition hold good in this case.

Mark your envelopes "Final," and send them so that they will be received at JOHN BULL Offices, 93 & 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than midday, Friday, January 12th next.

It is only by knowledge of football form that you can succeed in giving all the particulars required. Therefore we advise you to give your attention to "Football Fancies" which appear each week in this journal. Your coupon MUST be taken from either JOHN BULL or "Lotinga's Weekly."

Further offers of large Money Prizes will be made after the decision of the First Round.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

COUPON. THE FOOTBALL CUP COMPETITION.

The following four Clubs in my judgment will contest the Semi-Finals. The number of goals each will score in the actual deciding games are as given below:

Clubs	Goals		Clubs	Goals
.....		v.	.....	
.....		v.	.....	

The following two Clubs will contest the Final Tie this season and I judge the number of goals each will score in the actual deciding game to be

Club	Goals		Club	Goals
.....		v.	.....	

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Bear in mind that you must give the actual number of goals scored by each of the teams you select, and not by one team only.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Is the Home Rule Bill to be "Russelled" through?
Isn't the Thames warship "order" rather a large one?
Was Gibson Bowles's "re-turn" altogether unexpected?
Isn't the cotton-spinning industry in for a "warp"?
Doesn't Mr. McKenna wish he had "penned" his thoughts better?
Are residents in Paddington "feeling a draught"?
Is "sleighing" a favourite pastime among Russian soldiers?
Doesn't Christian Science require a little too much "faith"?
Wasn't a "Miracle" badly needed at Olympia?
Isn't "The Eternal Waltz" sure to be "murdered"?
Will all telephone operators now be "civil" servants?

"The spirit of the age is not democracy, but petrol," says Mr. Plowden. But democracy is the pet role of many.

Irish tobacco only was smoked by the Irish Guards at the Tower during Christmas. One way to "puff" it.

"Waltz Captures London," reads a headline. It must be a very "taking" air.

A workhouse inmate recently broke sixty windows. The suffragettes should secure him without delay.

Stow (Suffolk) workhouse is to be known in future as Stow Lodge. Will the guests be "to the Manor born"?

Dr. Orville Owen has been beaten by the Wye. Or the "where," which?

The Chinese Government has sanctioned the cutting off of pigtails in the hope that the people will now "keep their hair on."

A retired postman, who is estimated to have walked 170,000 miles has been presented with an armchair. Presents are not always inappropriate.

The prisoner who flung a stool at Mr. Justice Ridley apparently forgot that his lordship had already a seat on the bench.

The rate for "plain language" telegrams to Australia is to be reduced. The M.C.C. team must look out.

An American food expert says "mince pie is an easily assimilable polysaccharid carbohydrate of high caloric efficiency." Sounds a lot for a penny.

The G.P.O. have hired some baths as a sorting office. We hope some of the picture postcards will pass through them.

"Maggie Pepper" is the name of a forthcoming play. The heroine, we presume, is "hot stuff."

A New York thief stole all the brass buttons from a police sergeant's coat. But he took his own hook.

NOW READY JANUARY ISSUE ONE SHILLING

Financial Review of Reviews.

Trustee Investments and the Irish Land Acts. By SIR EDWARD FITHIAN, Barrister-at-Law.

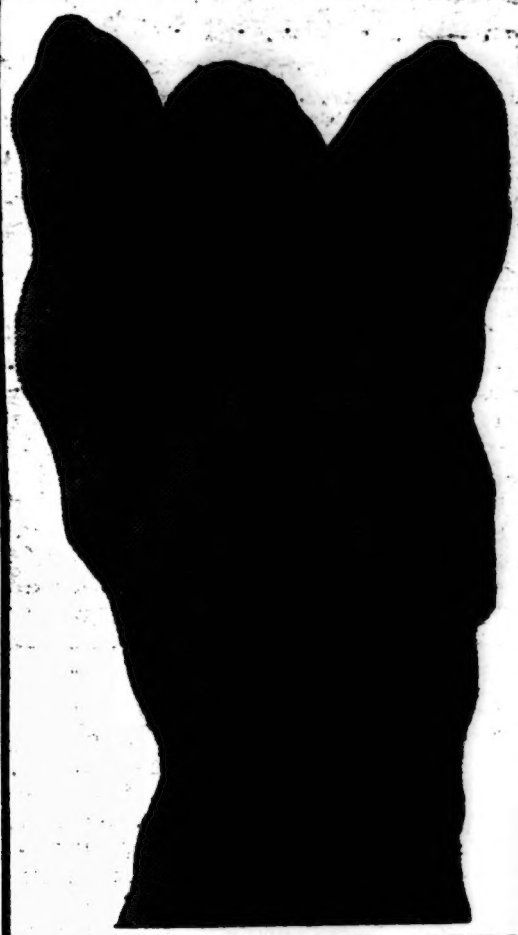
A Suggested Solution of London's Traffic Problem. By ARNOLD WRIGHT.

The New Regime in Mexico. By EDWIN CHAMBERLAIN.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION. ANALYSIS OF REPORTS. NEW CAPITAL ISSUES. STATISTICAL RECORD.

Publisher, 2, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W., and all booksellers.

STRENGTH is the Glory of a Man. Weakness, his Shame!
A straight talk by (Edward Aston).
BRITAIN'S STRONGEST MAN.



Have you ever fully realised what a great advantage it would be to enjoy relief from those small daily health troubles which interfere with our success in life. Take as an instance that dull numbing headache, brought about by constipation, or disordered bowels. How many people have foolishly endeavoured to remedy this particular trouble by swallowing a "concoction of powerful drugs under a misleading name"? Yet the remedy designed by nature is so simple that it is entirely overlooked. EXERCISE, or Muscle Culture as I teach it, will not only prevent but cure these troublesome indispositions.

In order that readers of JOHN BULL may test this remedy before purchasing, I am prepared to send a sample lesson quite free on receipt of 2½d. to cover printing, postage and packing, or on receipt of 2½d. I will forward particulars of my system with autograph photo and a fine tape measure.

State whether it is better health or greater strength you require. If your health is of value to you, send now to:—

J.B. 3. EDWARD ASTON,
ASTON HOUSE,
CAMBERWELL GREEN, LONDON, S.E. J.B. 3.

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No other Branches or Agents

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

DUNVILLE'S V R WHISKY

May be obtained from all Wine and Spirit Merchants.

In 3, 6, and 12 Bottle Cases.

Insist on seeing "BOTTLED BY DUNVILLE & CO. LTD." on the Capsule and Back label. NONE OTHER GUARANTEED GENUINE.

Write direct for name of nearest retailer to

DUNVILLE & CO. Ltd., Belfast or London.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

["*Larry Lynx*" of THE PEOPLE, "*Double U. L.*" of LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and* "*Magpie*" of THE GLOBE.]

Medley.

Notice early in the season how the jumping races are always run at a terrible pace, and that fat, not fit, horses are those in the van, whereby they beat themselves.

I have never heard more complaints of default to little backers than during the last two or three weeks of the just ended flat racing season.

Here, we look askance when a fairly good class three-year-old is put to jumping, but already sons of Flying Fox are gaining jumping races in France.

This paper's launching into the football arena has been clamorously received, whilst hundreds of readers are very naturally keen on trying to pick up the huge prizes. It is impossible to do more than appreciate the many communications without answering them—other than collectively in this sort of public acknowledgment. I hope to hear that our readers have promptly won the £1,000 prize, which is well worth trying for, and the best reciprocation for its liberality which can be given to the paper is to popularise the competitions even more by naming them generally. Your JOHN BULL merely costs you 1d. and you have the value just the same, so that one gets the fabulous odds of £1,000 to *nothing* in trying to do what is far from impossible—viz., to predict three football results with the exact scores.

Prophetic.

Gatwick's second stage to-day (Thursday) will, on his Hurst Park running, give the Grange Steeplechase to SHANAWAN, whilst, unless saved for Plumpton, OAKMERE could, if he would, take the Moderate Handicap—and, of course, FIREBALL the Maiden Plate. Our bad selling steeplechasers are only mediums for a gamble, and I think NIGHT WIND capable of winning the Clayton Handicap.

Haydock Park provides really the best things of the week, for ARABLE would take the Gerard Maiden Steeplechase, and FLYING LORIS is a real good thing for Saturday's January Steeplechase, with another victory very probable for his stable companion, ILSTON, in the Maiden Plate. At Plumpton, subject to what they have done in the interim, FORT or OAKMERE would win the Hurdle Handicap, KILWILLIAM the Novices' Steeplechase, and THE LURCHER Saturday's Ringmer Steeplechase. In case he should gallop or jump, as he can if he wants to, I name BLACK SEA as a competitor in the Moderate Hurdle Handicap, but he has been such a bogey that one cannot have confidence.

FOOTBALL FAVOURITES.

By "McW."

When you are looking for the two opposing teams most likely to score between them the highest aggregate of goals, it will generally prove futile to select a game in which one of the clubs has undoubted superiority of form. The reason for this is that the club which is easily the better slackens down when two or three goals are scored, and these may represent the goals scored in the match. Better far to choose two opposing teams, both strong in attack, but weak in defence. In the First Round of the Cup Ties, however, there are one or two games in which one side has such undoubteded superiority that their victories should be of large proportions. There is seldom slowing down in Cup Ties. For that reason the games I would select for big totals would be Swindon v. Sutton Junction, Aston Villa v. Walsall, and Liverpool v. Leyton. Other likelies are Blackburn Rovers v. Norwich, Leeds City v. Glossop, and Manchester United v. Huddersfield.

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INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £421,408
Life. Fire. Accident.
Motor. Burglary. Plate Glass.
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INVESTMENT POLICY.
No Medical Examination required. Prospectus sent on request.
AGENCY APPLICATIONS INVITED.
HEAD OFFICE:
45-49, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

FOOTBALL!

WHITE, FISHER & CO. THE WORLD'S PREMIER Football Accountants.
BASLE, SWITZERLAND,
beg to announce that the
ENORMOUS ODDS OF 2,000 to 1
HAVE BEEN LAID AND PAID ON OCTOBER 7th.
£100 TO ONE SHILLING.
This fortunate Client, Mr. Albert Hebden, 8, Guildford Street, Brighton, having predicted 4 scores successfully.
£1,000 will be paid to any charity if not genuine.
FULL PARTICULARS will be sent upon RECEIPT of a POSTCARD. If you mention this paper, we will also send you a sample packet, FREE OF COST, of our famous FOOTBALL WHIFF CIGARETTES
Letters must bear not later than 2 p.m. postmark on Saturday.
FOOTBALL CHAT, Nov. 22, 1911, Says, "Established firms of repute such as Messrs. White, Fisher & Co, conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."

HARRY APPLETON the man who always pays.
"NO LIMIT" THROUGHOUT JUMPING SEASON.
BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.
£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.
Send for my **FOOTBALL** terms. Odds greatly extended.
Postcards 1d. Kindly mention this paper. Letters 2½d.

WILLIAM BARNES, FOOTBALL TOTALISATOR,
LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.
Some Tote-Odds paid Saturday, Dec. 16th.
12/1 against 6 Home Trams; 20/1 7 H. T.; 37 1 8 H. T.; 46/1 9 H. T.; 3/1 1 Dr; 15/1 2 Dr.; 68 1 3 Dr.; 180 1 4 Dr.; 16/1 2 H. and 2 A.; 26/1 3 H. and 2 A.; 108 1 6 H. and 2 A.; 11 1 1 H. and 1 Dr; 24/1 2 H. and 2 Dr.; 96/1 3 H. and 3 Dr.; 23 1 4 H. and 1 Dr.; 31/1 5 H. and 1 Dr.; 59/1 6 H. and 1 Dr.
Tote-book and forms sent free on application.

FOOTBALL

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."

BERT FRY, BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

"JOHN BULL" says: "Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as, instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to a reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, and be sure of receiving their winnings."
Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.
Free Postage.

'FOOTBALL.'
Do your Business with
W. & A. FOX,
Football Accountants,
BASLE, SWITZERLAND.
LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!!
Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters
GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK
Absolutely Free.
1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

Free Postage. Free Postage.
H. HAMILTON & CO.,
Basle, Switzerland.
The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.
FOOTBALL!
Send a 1d. postcard for the most liberal price list issued. Every Match in the English, Southern, and Scotch Leagues to pick from.
£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*
The "Mirror of Life" for Oct. 22nd says:—
"Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. have won for themselves an exceptional reputation for prompt payments, and we have no hesitation in recommending the Firm as a thoroughly reliable one."
Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.
H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

FOOTBALL.
Send for Coupons. Every match in the 1st Scottish, 1st and 2nd English and Southern Leagues to choose from.
PATRICK FARLEY,
Turf and Football Accountant.
LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND; and 19, HOWARD ST., GLASGOW.
NO LIMIT TO DOUBLES OR TREBLES. LETTERS COMMISSIONS. Pay at Night. Write for Terms.

DOUGLAS STUART,

BASLE, SWITZERLAND.

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STARTING PRICE.

No Limit, and place betting when the Favourite starts "odds on."

Special facilities for posting and wiring daily Commissions.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Unlimited Double Event Book on Lincoln and National NOW OPEN.

Remember, £10,000 to £10 paid last year.

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writing for quotations. I lay you the market price prevailing when your instructions are post-marked.

SYSTEM SPECIALIST.

(No commission.)

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BUST DEVELOPER

is a wonderful preparation that really does develop the bust.

Simple in its use and action—one can carry out the treatment in one's own private room—without trouble or inconvenience of any kind.

Its low price places a perfect development within the reach of all, and any woman who has hitherto been secretly worried about her shrunken and unhealthy appearance should commence this treatment at once.

Send **5/6** and this new and unfailing preparation will be mailed you by return, post free, in plain and sealed wrapper.

JUNON Bust Developer is prepared only by the Proprietors and is GUARANTEED HARMLESS.

JUNON Hair TONIC

Restores gloss and Brilliancy—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

Recommended for use in conjunction with JUNON Hair Stains.

Two kinds: Greasy for dry and brittle hair; Non-greasy for greasy hair.

Post **1/- & 2/6** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Hair STAIN

This is the only permanent and really satisfactory one-solution hair stain—absolutely harmless—perfectly natural tints—easily applied in one operation—defies detection—does not stain the skin.

In Eight Standard Shades:—Black, Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Chestnut, Golden Chestnut, Light Golden Chestnut, Golden, Light Golden.

Post **1/- & 2/9** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Ltd., Marsham St., Westminster, S.W.

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What is Your Number?

Our Weekly Ballot for 50 Helpers at Two Guineas Apiece.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL **of specified date,** bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received for our issues of November 4th, 11th, and 25th:—

W. H. BRIANCE, 8, Leicester Villas, Oakdale Road, South Woodford. No. 256,029. November 4th.

H. W. FLEMMING, 79a, Cambray Road, Balham, S.W. No. 517,930. November 11th.

K. E. McDONALD, 23, Gordon Street, Leith, N.B. No. 412,112. November 25th.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of December 9th:—

4542	166302	342046	555854	700543
10578	181929	383658	560956	724193
28201	203185	405161	566789	728974
40329	228768	416145	586155	736585
76139	232649	434155	609982	757760
104476	237708	466690	620114	775456
118306	269172	486704	636148	821643
121870	304724	505135	657328	828163
152382	315703	518975	662611	835801
157698	329018	532562	679991	845432

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED FEBRUARY 3RD (PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 1ST).

The John Bull League.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

CAN INDIGESTION BE CURED?

YES, THERE IS ONE CURE.

Then Why Do People Continue to Suffer for Years?

BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW.

There are two kinds of Indigestion—Stomach Indigestion and Bowel Indigestion. Most people think that all the food they consume is digested in the Stomach. This is not so. Only one-quarter of your food is digested in the Stomach; the rest is digested in the Bowel. All starchy food, potatoes, bread, bananas, beans, etc., is digested in the bowel.

It is owing to ignorance on this question that the sufferer always makes a mistake in his endeavour to obtain relief.

There are three mistakes commonly made by victims of Indigestion.

(1) They starve themselves.
(2) They take pepsine preparations.
(3) They take purgatives.

Nothing could be more unwise, nothing could be more useless.

Starvation is no good. If certain organs of the body have forgotten how to perform their natural functions, you will not mend matters by giving those organs nothing to do. What they want is work and nourishment, not idleness.

Pepsine Mixtures.—The ordinary indigestion medicine is some kind of Pepsine Mixture. Pepsine Mixtures are no good for this reason: Only one-quarter of the food you consume is digested in the stomach and three-quarters in the bowel. Now, the Pepsine Mixture does not touch the Bowel at all. It can give no relief whatever to Bowel Indigestion.

Purgatives.—These give temporary relief only to increase the trouble afterwards. All sufferers know this, but they do not know the reason. This is the reason. Purgatives do not digest food; they simply expel it. Nature's way is to extract all the nourishment [illegible] and then to expel the refuse. The purgatives weaken the bowel, which depends more and more on the artificial assistance.

Purgatives are no good.

WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

What, then, is the cure for indigestion?

Clearly, it must be something that will digest the food in the Stomach and will also digest the food in the Bowel.

There is only one thing that will do this, and that is the wonderful scientific remedy CICFA.

Therefore—CICFA is the only remedy which cures both Stomach Indigestion with Heartburn, Palpitation, etc., and Bowel Indigestion with Acidity, Flatulence, Constipation, etc.

If you take CICFA you can eat what you like, when you like, and your food will do you good.

There are two kinds of indigestion.—

INDIGESTION IN THE STOMACH
AND
INDIGESTION IN THE BOWEL.

STOMACH INDIGESTION occurs when the food, not being digested immediately by the Gastric Juice, begins to ferment. In a short time this food becomes so foul that it cannot be digested. Hence the formation of foul gases and acrid acids which irritate the nerves and often cause heartburn, especially when it rises in the throat; the gases cause stomach pressure, heart palpitation, neuralgic headaches, vomiting, and a burning spot behind the left shoulder blade, so that many think that they have Heart Disease. The rising of the gases produces eructations.

BOWEL INDIGESTION.—Three-quarters of the food consumed is digested in the bowel. Food undigested in the Bowel becomes foul, also producing gases and unnatural acids; the gases cause Flatulence, bloating and pressure. Thus unnatural acids are absorbed in the blood, and these are carried to every part of the system, producing foul breath, coated tongue, heaviness of the head, biliousness, loss of appetite, and profound depression.

The whole system is so weakened and under-nourished that it is easily attacked by the germs of various diseases.

Sufferers from Indigestion are very liable to be attacked by infectious diseases because of the weakened and starved condition of their nerve centres.

CICFA removes the immediate trouble. Very soon the Stomach and the Bowels are healthy and strong enough to digest the food themselves, and no further medicine is required.

All sufferers from Indigestion are earnestly advised to make one trial of CICFA. It is a certain cure, and it is the only cure, for both Stomach and Bowel Indigestion.

CICFA has already cured thousands. Hundreds of sufferers are being cured every day.

5 TESTIMONIALS OUT OF 5,000.

Mr. J. J., of Beetle, writes:—

I suffered from Acidity for years. My teeth were on edge and I had attacks of Rheumatism. I saw from your advertisement that I had Bowel Indigestion. I have finished the third bottle of Cicfa, and every symptom has disappeared; it is a wonderful remedy.

Mrs. F. R., of Edinburgh, writes:—

Some time ago I was suffering from Indigestion, indeed I have been suffering from it all my life, and have tried everything. My doctor finally gave me Cicfa Tablets, but did not tell me what they were. They did me so much good that he ordered me to continue taking them, and finally told me that it was Cicfa he was giving me. It is invaluable for curing Indigestion, and making one generally feel well. All my friends say how well I look since I took Cicfa. I have recommended Cicfa to many friends, all of whom are greatly pleased with the results.

Mrs. G. L., of Nottingham, writes:—

I have suffered so terribly in the past from Indigestion with Constipation that it is difficult to realise that I am really cured. My complexion is simply pink and white. I am urging all my friends to take Cicfa.

Mrs. L., of Petersfield, writes:—

For years I have suffered from [illegible] and Constipation [illegible] all kinds of Pills and [illegible] without benefit. I [illegible] one large box of [illegible] and therefore purchased a bottle immediately. I feel already like another person. It is a great blessing to be able to eat and enjoy a good meal and to know that all the food is being digested; it is a wonderful change. I give one tablet after dinner to my little girl of nine years old for Wind. It is Wonderful how they are curing her.

Dr. C. says:—

"NINETEEN out of twenty cases of Constipation are due to Bowel Indigestion, but not ONE in twenty persons knows it."

NOTE.—Dr. C. always prescribes CICFA for those cases, because he finds it cures them.

A holiday always gives you Constipation. That's not your liver, it is Bowel Indigestion. CICFA prevents and cures every case, and makes the holiday a pleasure.

If you are a sufferer from Indigestion, and if you still have any doubt that CICFA can cure you, send us your name and address, and one penny stamp for postage, and in return we will forward you a liberal sample for nothing, to prove to you what we say is true. See coupon below.

If you suffer from any form of Indigestion, our sample of CICFA will prove to you that this is the real remedy for your complaint.

If you take CICFA you will be able to eat anything at any time.

Indigestion makes life unendurable, and CICFA is positively the only cure for it.

CICFA is prepared in chocolate-coated tablets and sold by all chemists at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., direct from CAPSULOIDS (1909) Ltd., 79, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.

Send 1s. 1½d. or 2s. 9d. and test it. Or,

YOU MAY TEST IT

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

CICFA COUPON.

I enclose my name and address clearly written on a piece of paper with this coupon and one penny stamp for postage for a sample of your wonderful CICFA. I have never before applied directly or indirectly for a sample of CICFA.

CICFA

Capsuloids (1909), Ltd., 79, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.

Good for one week only. JOHN BULL, 6-1-12.

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